**THIS SHELL SHOULD BE USED FOR AUDIT PERIODS INCLUDING 12-31-21 & SUBSEQUENT FYEs.**

**AU-C 265 GAGAS Report Letter**

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

**and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by**

***Government Auditing Standards***

***Revised November 2024 ~~May 2024~~***

Instructions: Use the example on the next page when there are **no** material weaknesses, significant deficiencies **or** reportable instances of noncompliance or other matters.

If you report significant deficiencies / material weaknesses / reportable noncompliance or other matters, replace (i.e., cut and paste) the modified section(s) of the report from the examples following the first example report.

**No Reportable Instances of Noncompliance or Other Matters with No Material Weaknesses or Significant Deficiencies**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER**

**FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

**REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

[Instructions](https://ohioauditor.gov/ocs/2021/Instruction%20on%20how%20to%20Fill%20in%20Entity%20Specific%20Parameters%20within%20Word.docx) are available on how to fill in entity specific parameters within this document.

Entity Name[[1]](#endnote-1) ***<< (notes 1 – 4 in this “No reportable instances” example appear as endnotes at the end of this document)***

County Name

Street Address

City, Ohio ZIP Code

To the Governing Body:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States *(Government Auditing Standards)*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unit(s), each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information ***<< modify as necessary*** of the Entity Name, County Name, Ohio (the Entity Type) as of and for the year ended FYE Date, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Entity’s basic financial statements**[[2]](#endnote-2)** and have issued our report thereon dated Report Date.**[[3]](#endnote-3)**,[[4]](#endnote-4)

***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Entity Type’s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion(s) on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity Type’s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity Type’s internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Entity Type’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Entity Type’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

***Purpose of This Report***

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity Type’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Entity Type’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Text

Description automatically generated

Report Date

**EXAMPLE: SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY(IES) *BUT NO* MATERIAL WEAKNESSES**

*Replace the last paragraph in the internal control section with this paragraph:*

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified (a) certain deficiency(ies) in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item(s) 20XX-001 through 20XX-004 and 20XX-007 that we consider to be (a) significant deficiency(ies).

***>>> If the report includes auditee responses, remember to insert the “response” paragraph from the material noncompliance example in the compliance section, even if there was no material noncompliance. If the auditee chooses not to respond, insert in the Schedule of Findings “We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding,” as the Officials’ Response.***

**EXAMPLE: MATERIAL WEAKNESSES, *BUT NO* SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

*Replace the last paragraph in the internal control section with this paragraph:*

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified (a) certain deficiency(ies) in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item(s) 20XX-001 through 20XX-004 and 20XX-007 that we consider to be (a) material weakness(es).

***>>> If the report includes auditee responses, remember to insert the “response” paragraph from the material noncompliance example in the compliance section, even if there was no material noncompliance. If the auditee chooses not to respond, insert in the Schedule of Findings “We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding,” as the Officials’ Response.***

**EXAMPLE: MATERIAL WEAKNESSES, *AND* SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES**

*There is no revision to the first paragraph. Replace the last two paragraphs with these paragraphs:*

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be (a) material weakness(es) and (a) significant deficiency(ies).

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Entity Type’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item(s) 20XX-001 through 20XX-004 and 20XX-007 to be (a) material weakness(es).

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item(s) 20XX-006 and 20XX-008 through 20XX-010 to be (a) significant deficiency(ies).

***>>> If the report includes auditee responses, remember to insert the “response” paragraph from the material noncompliance example in the compliance section, even if there was no material noncompliance. If the auditee chooses not to respond, insert in the Schedule of Findings “We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding,” as the Officials’ Response.***

**EXAMPLE: MATERIAL NONCOMPLIANCE**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Entity Type’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed (an) instance(s) of noncompliance or other matters that (is/are) required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which (is/are) described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item(s) ***List related finding reference numbers, for example >>*** 20XX-001 and 20XX-005.

***Entity Type’s Response to Findings***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Entity Type’s response(s) to the finding(s) identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings (and questioned costs) and / or corrective action plan. ***<<omit reference to questioned costs if none reported and to corrective action plan if not part of the audit report*** The Entity Type’s response(s) was(were) not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion onthe response(s). ***<<INCLUDE PARAGRAPH ONLY IF THE REPORT INCLUDES RESPONSES TO GAGAS CONTROL OR NONCOMPLIANCE FINDINGS. See footnote [[5]](#footnote-1) below if the client chooses not to respond.***

***Purpose of this Report***

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity Type’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Entity Type’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

***Other Important Guidance from the Single Audit Guide***

* **4.62** in the AICPA’s *Single Audit Guide* requires auditors to report noncompliance findings that also relate to control deficiencies in both (1) the internal control and (2) the compliance sections of the GAGAS report. Several Revised Code sections mandate governments to implement internal controls, such as budgetary. ***However****, unless noncompliance with these mandated controls contributes to misstatements or potential misstatements, auditors should not report them under AU-C 265.*
* **4.63** Auditors should present or refer to findings of fraud in the *compliance and other matters* section of the report, unless the primary nature of the finding is a significant deficiency or material weakness in internal control. Auditors should also present or refer to findings of fraud that represent significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control in the internal control section. (Note: When the AOS issues a finding for recovery resulting from fraud, we would include a noncompliance finding. However, per this guidance, we should also consider if the fraud resulted from a significant deficiency or material weakness. If it does, we should also include the finding number in the GAGAS report internal control section.)
* **13.35(c)** Audit findings that relate to both the financial statements (i.e., that we report as GAGAS findings) and the federal awards (i.e., that require reporting per 2 CFR 200.516(a)) should be reported in both the GAGAS and Federal sections of the schedule of findings and questioned costs. However, the reporting in one section of the schedule may be in summary form, with a reference to a detailed reporting in the other section of the schedule. For example, we should usually report a material weakness in internal control that affects the financial statements as a whole, including its federal awards, in detail in the section of the schedule of findings and questioned costs related to the financial statements, with a summary identification and reference given in the federal awards section. Conversely, we should report a finding of noncompliance with a federal program law that also is material to the financial statements in detail in the federal awards section of the schedule, with a summary identification and reference given in the financial statement section.

***Endnotes***

1. The addressee is the same as the financial statement opinion addressee. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. The opinion unit language applies only to GAAP/OCBOA entities. Delete inapplicable opinion units. If we combine the discrete CU’s and RFI as permitted in limited circumstances by Footnote 7 to SLG Exhibit 4-2 ~~4.1~~, conclude as follows: . . . and the aggregate discretely presented component unit and remaining fund information of [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. **Referring to Opinion Modifications**

   The first ¶ of the GAGAS report must briefly describe any departure from the standard financial statement opinion (e.g., qualified or adverse opinions, disclaimer of opinion, and /or explanatory and emphasis of matter paragraphs (such as “going concerns,” accounting changes, reference to other auditors, implementation of new accounting standard, etc.)). See Endnote 4 below for reference to other auditors & the *Other Relevant Guidance* below Example 5.

   **Example 1:**

   **If a government (a) is not required to follow GAAP**

   **and (b) uses the AOS accounting basis**:

   We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 20XX and 20XX-1 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Entity Name, County Name, Ohio (the Entity Type) and have issued our report thereon dated Report Date, wherein we noted the Entity Type followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

   **Example 1a:**

   **If a government (a) is required to follow GAAP**

   **and (b) uses the AOS accounting basis**:

   We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Entity Name, County Name, Ohio (the Entity Type) as of and for the year ended FYE Date, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated Report Date, wherein we issued an adverse opinion on the Entity Type’s financial statements because the Entity Type did not follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as required by Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03.

   **Example 2:**

   **If a government (whether or not required to follow GAAP) uses an OCBOA Special Purpose Framework, replace the first shell paragraph with the following:**

   We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the modified cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component unit(s), each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Entity Name, County Name, Ohio (the Entity Type) as of and for the year ended FYE Date, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Entity Type’s basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated Report Date, wherein we noted the Entity Type uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

   **Example 3:**

   **If the opinion on an opinion unit is qualified (including a scope limitation),**

   **modify the first paragraph as follows:**

   We qualified our opinion on ***DESCRIBE OPINION UNIT (or fund type for AOS basis) AFFECTED BY THE QUALIFICATION / SCOPE RESTRICTION*** because ***DESCRIBE REASON FOR SCOPE RESTRICTION***.

   *(THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE TO ADD TO THE END OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH)*

   **Example 4:**

   **If we disclaim an opinion on an opinion unit, the Yellow Book still requires the**

   **auditor to report on internal control and compliance. However,**

   **modify the first paragraph as follows:**

   We were engaged to audit the ***list the opinion unit we disclaim***. We did not opine on ***DESCRIBE OPINION UNIT (or fund type for AOS basis) AFFECTED BY THE DISCLAIMER*** because ***DESCRIBE REASON FOR DISCLAIMER***.

   *(THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE TO ADD TO THE END OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH)*

   Generally, the other “boilerplate” paragraphs are not affected. However, the following language, adapted from footnote 141 of Single Audit Guide Chapter 4, should be added to the end of the Compliance section:

   However, if the scope of our work had been sufficient to enable us to express opinions on ***DESCRIBE OPINION UNIT (or fund type for AOS basis) AFFECTED BY THE DISCLAIMER***, instances of noncompliance or other matters may have been identified and reported herein.

   NOTE: This assumes no reportable instances of noncompliance were noted. If other noncompliance was noted, then change the word “however” to “additionally” and insert the word “other” before the word “instances.”

   **If we disclaim on the entire financial statements, see Example 5.**

   **Example 5:**

   **If we disclaim an opinion on the financial statements as a whole, the Yellow Book still requires the auditor to report on internal control and compliance. However,**

   **modify the first paragraph as follows:**

   We were engaged to audit, in accordance with **…** We did not opine on these financial statements because ***DESCRIBE REASON FOR DISCLAIMER***.

   *(THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE TO ADD TO THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH)*

   Additional report language revisions are also necessary consistent with Example 4-9 in the Single Audit Guide Chapter 4.

   For example, the following language is included in the Compliance section within Example 4-9:

   “Additionally, if the scope of our work had been sufficient to enable us to express opinions on the basic financial statements, other instances of noncompliance or other matters may have been identified and reported herein.” ***NOTE:*** *This example assumes reportable instances of noncompliance were noted. If there were no reported instances of noncompliance, then replace the word “additionally” with “however” and remove the word “other” prior to the word “instances.”*

   Also, change ‘audit’ to ‘engagement’, where applicable, in the remaining GAGAS letter paragraphs.

   **Other Relevant Guidance**

   If the auditor expressed a modified opinion on the financial statements (that is, a qualified opinion, an adverse opinion, or a disclaimer of opinion), the auditor should include a statement describing the nature of the modification. The auditor may include certain additional communications when the auditor included such additional communications in the auditor's report on the financial statements that are not modifications to the auditor's opinion. For example, if the auditor included an emphasis-of-matter paragraph in the auditor's report on the financial statements because of an uncertainty about the entity's ability to continue, as a going concern for a reasonable period of time, the auditor may also include mention of the additional communication here. (Single Audit Guide Ch 4, fn33)

   This would also include communications about accounting changes, implementations of new accounting standards, etc. The following is an example of such reference at the end of the introductory GAGAS paragraph when the opinion includes an emphasis of matter for implementation of a new accounting standard. This language should be modified specific to your opinion communication.

   We also noted the Entity Type adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement XX, ***include name of GASB in italics***.

   Auditors should also review guidance in AU-C 570 and AU-C 706. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. **Guidance when other auditors perform part of the audit:**

   Single Audit Guide paragraph 4.82 states:

   **4.82** When a group auditor refers to the work of a component auditor in the report on an entity's financial statements, the group auditor also should acknowledge the involvement of the component auditor in the report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance and other matters issued as part of the financial statement audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards.* The group auditor has two options for making such an acknowledgement:

   1. Referring to the component auditor's involvement in the group auditor's report and indicating that the results of the component audit is not included—***the reference option****.*
   2. Referring to the component auditor's involvement in the group auditor's report and including the results of the component audit (for example, material weaknesses, material instances of noncompliance, and significant deficiencies) — ***the inclusion option****.*

   Regardless of which of the preceding options is chosen by the auditor, the group auditor is not responsible for the specific findings of component auditors.

   |  |  |  |
   | --- | --- | --- |
   | **Financial opinion** | **GAGAS report** | **Schedule of Findings** |
   | Refers to other auditors | Refer to other auditors and use Reference method  * Indicate results of the other audits are not included | Do not report other findings |
   | Does not refer to other auditors | Do not refer to other auditors. \*  Auditor **must** use Inclusion method. | Report other auditor’s findings (significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and material noncompliance) that are material \*\* to PG. |

   \* If we do **not** refer to other auditors in the opinion, then we must evaluate their findings and determine which findings are material to our GAGAS report. (In other words, this method is identical to the *inclusion* method, **except** we do not mention the other auditors in the financial opinion or GAGAS report.)

   \*\* See the *Single Audit Guide* paragraphs 4.86b and Table 4-3 for guidance on evaluating if findings are material to the PG.

   ***Important:* When we refer to a component auditor in our report on the group financial statements, the Auditor of State will use the *reference* option.**

   If we **do** refer to other auditors in our financial opinion and they followed GAGAS, we use the ***reference*** method and do **not** include their GAGAS findings, per the first row in the table above. Add the following applicable example language to the end of the first paragraph:

   Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Name Of Fund, Department OR Component Unit***<<PLEASE BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH OPINION UNIT THIS REFERS***, as described in our report on the Entity Type’s financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors’ testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that are reported on separately by those auditors.

   * If other auditors did not follow GAGAS, please use this example:

   Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Name Of Fund, Department OR Component Unit***<<PLEASE BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH OPINION UNIT THIS REFERS***, as described in our report on the Entity Type’s financial statements. The financial statements of Name Of Fund, Department OR Component Unit ***<<PLEASE BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH OPINION UNIT THIS REFERS*** were not audited in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, and accordingly, this report does not include reporting on internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters associated with Name Of Fund, Department OR Component Unit ***<<PLEASE BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH OPINION UNIT THIS REFERS*** or that are reported on separately by those auditors who audited the financial statements of Name Of Fund, Department OR Component Unit ***<<PLEASE BE CLEAR AS TO WHICH OPINION UNIT THIS REFERS*.**

   [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. If the auditee chooses not to respond, insert in the *Schedule of Findings* “We did not receive a response from Officials to this finding,” as the *Officials’ Response*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)