

Independent Accountant's Report

To Management
Thomson Reuters (Tax and Accounting) Inc.

We have examined:

- The content related to the relevant standards and interpretive guidance in Thomson Reuters' quality management materials titled *PPC's Guide to Quality Management*, February 24, 2025, 38th Edition, available in print and online at Checkpoint.RIAG.com (the "quality management materials" or QMM)
- The accompanying description prepared by Thomson Reuters titled, "Description, as of March 6, 2025, of Thomson Reuters' *PPC's Guide to Quality Management*, February 24, 2025, 38th Edition" (the "description")

Management of Thomson Reuters (Tax and Accounting) Inc. is responsible for the QMM Content being in accordance with the QMM Content Criteria included in Attachment A and for the Description being in accordance with the QMM Description Criteria included in Attachment A (collectively, the "QMM Criteria"). Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the QMM Content and the Description based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the QMM Content and the Description are in accordance with the QMM Criteria in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the QMM Content and the Description. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the QMM Content and the Description, whether due to fraud or error. In making an assessment of the risks of material misstatement, we considered and obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the subject matter in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- The QMM Content is in accordance with the QMM Content Criteria specified in Attachment A.
- The Description is presented in accordance with the QMM Description Criteria specified in Attachment A.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of Thomson Reuters (Tax and Accounting) Inc., users and potential users of the QMM Content, and users' peer reviewers and regulators.

This report is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Plante & Moran, PLLC".

August 21, 2025

Attachment A: QMM Content Criteria and QMM Description Criteria

QMM Content Criteria

The quality management materials (QMM) are in accordance with the following criteria:

CC1: The content of the quality management materials (QMM) identified in the description (QMM content) accurately reflects the standards and interpretive guidance relevant to the QMM that are addressed by the QMM and address them in the manner described in the description, including the following:

- a. QMM content reproduced in whole or in part from standards and interpretive guidance does the following:
 - i. Appropriately references the relevant standards and interpretive guidance to enable user firms to locate the content
 - ii. Agrees with the relevant standards and interpretive guidance
- b. QMM content derived from the standards and interpretive guidance explains, elaborates, interprets, or paraphrases the relevant standards and interpretive guidance in a manner that does not change the meaning and intent of the standards and interpretive guidance.
- c. QMM content that illustrates the application of the relevant standards and interpretive guidance is not in conflict with the standards and interpretive guidance.

CC2: QMM content

- a. Identifies assumptions or judgments made in developing QMM content related to the relevant standards and interpretive guidance, if any.
- b. Identifies QMM content that is based on widely recognized or generally accepted practice rather than on the relevant standards and interpretive guidance.
- c. Identifies QMM content that represents the QMM provider's opinion or interpretation of the relevant standards and interpretive guidance.
- d. Uses the same terminology and definitions used in the relevant standards and interpretive guidance.

CC3: QMM content does not omit relevant principles, topics, requirements, considerations, procedures, or other aspects of the relevant standards and interpretive guidance, other than those identified in the description of the QMM in accordance with DC9 or DC10.

CC4: If the description indicates that a purpose of the QMM content is to provide a means to document compliance with the standards and interpretive guidance addressed by the QMM, the QMM content enables user firms to do so.

QMM Description Criteria

The description of the content of quality management materials (the "description") contains the following information:

DC1: An identification of the quality management materials (QMM) addressed by the description, including the following:

- a. The title of the QMM, including the version name, number, or date
- b. The format of the QMM and, if the QMM are in the format of application software, the delivery method

**Attachment A: QMM Content Criteria and Description Criteria
(Continued)**

DC2: An identification of any elements of the QMM content that are provided by another QMM provider

DC3: An identification of any elements (parts) of the QMM content that are not addressed by the description. If applicable, identify how the elements relate to the entirety of the QMM.

DC4: The date of the description

DC5: A statement that “[*Identification of the QMM addressed by the description*] are quality management materials (QMM). The AICPA defines QMM as materials (for example, manuals or tools), including industry- or subject matter-specific materials, intended to enable the operation of a firm’s system of quality management and promote consistency in performing quality engagements. QMM may be made available through technology, for example, through automated tools and techniques, and IT applications. QMM address standards and interpretive guidance related to accounting; audit, attestation, review, compilation, or preparation engagements, or other services that CPA firms may provide; or ethics, independence, quality control, quality management, peer review, or practice monitoring related to those services. QMM would be considered an intellectual resource as described in QM section 10, *A Firm’s System of Quality Management*.”

DC6: An identification of the characteristics of the QMM, including the following:

- a. The type of QMM and purpose of the type of QMM
- b. The topics addressed by the QMM
- c. If the QMM are intended to be used for a specific type of engagement or specific aspects of an engagement, an identification of the characteristics of that engagement, including the following:
 - i. The relevant characteristics of the type of client for which the QMM are intended to be used, including the following:
 - Area of practice
 - Industry
 - Form or type of organization
 - Operational characteristics
 - ii. The characteristics of the type of engagement for which the QMM are intended to be used, including the following:
 - Area of service
 - Level of service
 - Unique characteristics of the engagement

DC7: An identification of QMM, other than the QMM identified for DC1, necessary to accomplish the purpose of the QMM as noted in DC6a.

DC8: An identification of the standards and interpretive guidance relevant to the QMM that the QMM address, including the following:

- a. The standard-setting body that issued the standards and interpretive guidance
- b. Either:
 - i. The date through which the QMM address issued and effective standards and interpretive guidance (date approach), or
 - ii. The number and title of the most recently issued and effective standards and interpretive guidance addressed by the QMM (title approach)

**Attachment A: QMM Content Criteria and Description Criteria
(Continued)**

DC9: An identification of standards and interpretive guidance relevant to the QMM that were issued and effective up to the date (if using the date approach referred to in DC8bi) or the number and title (if using the title approach referred to in DC8bii) but:

- a. Not addressed by the QMM
- b. Not fully addressed by the QMM, including why the relevant standards and guidance were not fully addressed, and how they were addressed by the QMM

DC10: A description of how the QMM address standards and interpretive guidance relevant to the QMM that were issued but *not effective* up to the date (if using the date approach referred to in DC8bi) or the number and title (if using the title approach referred to in DC8bii), including the following:

- a. The title and effective date of the standards and interpretive guidance
- b. Whether the standards and interpretive guidance are addressed by the QMM and, if so, how they are addressed
- c. Whether the standards and interpretive guidance allow for early implementation or adoption

DC11: A description of the QMM provider's policy for updating the QMM content, including the nature and anticipated timing of updates

DC12: A statement that user firms are responsible for the following:

- a. Determining whether the QMM are suitable for the user firm's purposes
- b. Understanding that the QMM are not intended to be a substitute for the standards and interpretive guidance, an evaluation thereof, or professional judgment
- c. Using QMM that reflect the most current (up-to-date) relevant standards and interpretive guidance that are applicable in the circumstances and accessing and using relevant standards and interpretive guidance that are applicable in the circumstances that are not addressed or not fully addressed by the QMM
- d. Properly implementing the QMM and using professional judgment in the application of the QMM based on the facts and circumstances (for example, of each engagement)
- e. Providing the appropriate training for the use of the QMM and performing the appropriate supervision and review procedures regarding the use of the QMM, based on the skill, training, knowledge, and experience of individual users within the user firm
- f. Identifying that there may be certain facts, circumstances, risk factors, or specific issues that exist for a particular client, engagement, or user firm that may not be addressed by the QMM; in that case, understanding that the QMM will require tailoring and augmentation to address such facts, circumstances, risk factors, or specific issues
- g. Monitoring the activities of standard-setting bodies for changes that would affect the user firm, including amendments of standards and interpretive guidance and deferrals of effective dates
- h. Complying with relevant professional standards and interpretive guidance
- i. Understanding that the effectiveness of the QMM is dependent on the user firm fulfilling the preceding responsibilities and the effectiveness of its actions

Description, as of March 6, 2025, of Thomson Reuters' *PPC's Guide to Quality Management*, February 24, 2025, 38th Edition

PPC's Guide to Quality Management, February 24, 2025, 38th Edition (the Guide), is available in print and online at Checkpoint.RIAG.com. The Guide consists of chapter text and multiple practice aids. These practice aids are included in this description and are available as uneditable PDFs on Checkpoint.RIAG.com as part of the Guide.

PPC's Workflow Tools are not included in this description. The Workflow Tools, which are designed to enhance productivity, efficiency, and quality when used in combination with the Guide, are available as PPC's Practice Aids. PPC's Practice Aids: Quality Management (version 2/25) are editable Microsoft Word and Excel versions of all the practice aids in the Guide.

Definition of QMM

PPC's Guide to Quality Management are quality management materials (QMM). The AICPA defines QMM as materials (for example, manuals or tools), including industry- or subject matter-specific materials, intended to enable the operation of a firm's system of quality management and promote consistency in performing quality engagements. QMM may be made available through technology, for example, through automated tools and techniques, and IT applications.

QMM address standards and interpretive guidance related to accounting; audit, attestation, review, compilation, or preparation engagements or other services that CPA firms may provide; or ethics, independence, quality control, quality management, peer review, or practice monitoring related to those services. QMM would be considered an intellectual resource as described in QM section 10, *A Firm's System of Quality Management*.

Other QMM Providers

The elements of the QMM provided and within this description are delivered by Thomson Reuters (Tax and Accounting) Inc. (Thomson Reuters) and no other QMM provider.

Characteristics of the QMM

The Guide is a full set of guidance and practice aids to assist firms in developing, implementing, and maintaining a system of quality management pursuant to the AICPA Statements on Quality Management Standards (SQMS). The Guide has been designed for firms that are subject to system reviews, including firms that perform audit engagements under the Statements on Auditing Standards (SASs) and examinations under the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAEs). It also includes summary peer review-related information that applies to firms undergoing system reviews. The practice aids provide a means to document compliance with relevant standards and interpretive guidance.

The Guide generally does not provide guidance for firms that have an accounting practice and are not subject to system reviews. Firms that have an accounting practice and perform only services under the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services (SSARs) or the SSAEs, excluding examinations, and, thus, are not subject to system reviews, should use *PPC's Guide to Quality Management—Compilation and Review* instead of the Guide.

An important part of any system of quality management is its engagement forms, checklists, programs, and other practice aids. Thus, to comply with the quality management requirements for an individual engagement, the Guide is intended to be used in conjunction with the applicable engagement guide. The peer review chapter is a summary of the more important aspects of the peer review process and undergoing a system review. It is not a peer review manual.

Relevant Standards and Interpretative Guidance Addressed by the Guide

The Guide addresses relevant professional standards issued and effective through February 24, 2025, as follows:

- *Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews*
- *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct* Rules and Interpretations

**Description, as of March 6, 2025, of the Content of PPC's Guide to Quality Management,
February 24, 2025, 38th Edition (continued)**

- *The Statement on Standards for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Programs*, revised January 1, 2024

Although the following relevant professional standards may not be fully effective at the time of publication, the user applying the guidance in the Guide must evaluate each standard's applicability and effective date based on the period covered in each specific engagement. The following professional standards were issued before February 24, 2025, and are incorporated into the Guide as follows:

- Systems of quality management that comply with Statement on Quality Management Standards (SQMS) No. 1, *A Firm's System of Quality Management*, are required to be designed and implemented by December 15, 2025. An evaluation of the system of quality management should be performed within one year of implementation. SQMS No. 1 does not prohibit early implementation. It is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- SQMS No. 2, *Engagement Quality Reviews*, is effective for audits and reviews of financial statements and for other engagements in a firm's accounting and auditing practice for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2025, and does not prohibit early implementation. SQMS No. 2 is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- SQMS No. 3, *Amendments to QM Sections 10, A Firm's System of Quality Management, and 20, Engagement Quality Reviews*, is effective concurrently with the effective dates of SQMS Nos. 1 and 2. SQMS No. 3 is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- SSARS No. 26, *Quality Management for an Engagement Performed in Accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services*, is generally effective for engagements conducted in accordance with the SSARSs for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2025, and does not prohibit early implementation. SSARS No. 26 is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- SSAE No. 23, *Amendments to the Attestation Standards for Consistency With the Issuance of AICPA Standards on Quality Management*, is effective for engagements conducted in accordance with SSAEs beginning on or after December 15, 2025, and does not prohibit early implementation. SSAE No. 23 is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- SAS No. 146, *Quality Management for an Engagement Conducted in Accordance With Generally Accepted Auditing Standards*, is effective for engagements conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS for periods beginning on or after December 15, 2025, and does not prohibit early implementation. SAS No. 146 is fully incorporated into the Guide.
- PRSU No. 2, *Reviewing A Firm's System of Quality Management and Omnibus Technical Enhancements*, is effective for firms with peer review years ending on or after December 31, 2025, and is fully incorporated into the Guide, with dual guidance provided.

Policy for Updating the QMM Content

Thomson Reuters updates *PPC's Guide to Quality Management* annually and generally releases a new edition each spring to reflect changes in standards and interpretive guidance, content enhancements, and the corrections of minor errors not previously updated. The Guide referenced herein was completed on February 24, 2025, and no changes have been made to this specific edition of the Guide since then.

User Firm Responsibilities

User firms are responsible for the following:

- a. Determining whether the QMM are suitable for the user firm's purposes
- b. Understanding that the QMM are not intended to be a substitute for the standards and interpretive guidance, an evaluation thereof, or professional judgment

**Description, as of March 6, 2025, of the Content of *PPC's Guide to Quality Management*,
February 24, 2025, 38th Edition (continued)**

- c. Using the QMM that reflect the most current (up-to-date) relevant standards and interpretive guidance that are applicable in the circumstances that are not addressed or not fully addressed by the QMM
- d. Properly implementing the QMM and using professional judgment in the application of the QMM based on the facts and circumstances (for example, of each engagement)
- e. Providing the appropriate training for the use of the QMM and performing the appropriate supervision and review procedures regarding the use of the QMM based on the skill, training, knowledge, and experience of individual users within the user firm
- f. Identifying that there may be certain facts, circumstances, risk factors, or specific issues that exist for a particular client, engagement, or user firm that may not be addressed by the QMM; in that case, understanding that the QMM will require tailoring and augmentation to address such facts, circumstances, risk factors, or specific issues
- g. Monitoring the activities of standard-setting bodies for changes that would affect the user firm, including amendments of standards and interpretive guidance and deferrals of effective dates
- h. Complying with relevant professional standards and interpretive guidance
- i. Understanding that the effectiveness of the QMM is dependent on the user firm fulfilling the preceding responsibilities and the effectiveness of its actions