

## Single Audits and Peer Review

### Are your Clients Requesting New Single Audit Services?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated significant amounts of money in new aid to non-federal entities requiring many of them to complete a single audit perhaps for the first time. A single audit also requires the financial statement audit to be performed under *Government Auditing Standards* (GAS). You may be asked to perform single audit engagements as your clients navigate the requirements of the CARES Act. Single audits are complex highly specialized audits focused on compliance with federal laws or regulations (and internal controls to ensure compliance) that apply to specific federal funds. If your firm performs a single audit engagement, it will be required to have a system review, which includes a review of at least one single audit engagement (or the audit of those compliance requirements and internal controls over compliance with those requirements). Please let us know if you plan to perform these services, and make sure to update your Peer Review Information (PRI) form in PRIMA to reflect single audit engagements!

For more information on single audits visit the [Governmental Audit Quality Center](#), including its [COVID-19 Resources](#) page.

### Do COVID-19 Funds Bring Peer Review Requirements?

A common question CPA firms are asking AICPA peer review staff is related to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness services and whether they are performing an engagement subject to peer review. You may be asked to check calculations performed by your client for accuracy and issue a report on your findings. This may indicate an agreed-upon procedures engagement is needed or has been performed. If your firm is not otherwise subject to peer review, the performance of an agreed-upon procedures engagement under the Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAEs) would require your firm to undergo an engagement review. If you need help determining whether you've performed an agreed-upon procedure, call the AICPA A&A Technical Hotline at 877.242.7212. If you need help determining whether your firm needs a peer review, call the AICPA Peer Review Team at 919.402.4502.

Refer to the [PPP loan forgiveness services matrix](#) for a tool to help firms navigate their engagements or other services around documenting expenses related to PPP forgiveness. See also [SBA Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) resources for CPAs](#) to access additional information on the program.



Through the [Enhancing Audit Quality Initiative \(EAQ\)](#), the AICPA shares resources and education to help you avoid the most common audit quality issues. Check out their latest resources:

## COVID-19 Audit Implications

As auditors navigate the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AICPA is available to help. The A&A resource center at [aicpa.org/covidaudit](https://aicpa.org/covidaudit) is updated periodically to help you with your audit engagements that are impacted by the pandemic. Here are a few resources EAQ launched since November:

- Fraud risk [article](#) covering potential fraud risks to keep in mind when performing audit engagements.
- Real estate [blog](#) describing impairment considerations for auditors to keep in mind when performing audits for commercial real estate professionals.
- Healthcare [blog](#) highlighting major considerations to keep in mind when auditing these entities.
- Call for questions [blog](#) answering questions received relative to auditing during a pandemic.
- EBP [blog](#) covering 2021 audit considerations to keep in mind when performing EBP engagements.
- Fraud risk [webcast](#) covering the financial impact of COVID-19 pandemic on clients to help auditors understand their responsibilities and how to respond to these risks.

For information about how COVID-19 may impact other areas of your practice, from tax and personal financial planning to forensic accounting, check out [the AICPA Coronavirus Resource Center](#).

## Risk Assessment and Response

EAQ launched an updated risk assessment on demand [course](#) that reviews the risk assessment standard requirements and discusses the importance of risk assessment during the pandemic recovery period.

## Peer Reviewer Survey Results

The EAQ team conducted a survey of Peer Reviewers to gain insight on challenges in the current environment. Find out what we've shared by reading this [blog](#).

## Need a Deeper Dive?

If you prefer in-depth information on the topics discussed, here are some courses and programs from the AICPA:

### Digital Asset

[Blockchain for Digital Assets: Accounting for Digital Assets Under U.S. GAAP](#)

### Blockchain

[Blockchain Fundamentals for Accounting and Finance Professionals Certificate](#)

### Service Organization Controls

[Introduction to SOC for Service Organizations Reporting](#)

[SOC for Service Organizations Deep Dive](#)

[SOC 2® Report Walkthrough](#)

[Advanced SOC for Service Organizations Certificate Exam](#)

[Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to User Entities' Internal Control Over Financial Reporting \(SOC 1®\) - Guide](#)

[SOC 2® Reporting on an Examination of Controls at a Service Organization Relevant to Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy](#)

## Some Ethical Prompts