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Audit data collection

Collecte des données d'audit

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Project Committee ISO/PC 295, *Audit data collection*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Accounting and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software packages are widely used in businesses and by various government organizations to manage and track business processes, post transactions and produce financial reports. Because of the nature of the information contained within the ERP systems, the data are also leveraged by internal and external auditors to assess the business controls, processes and financial reporting. There are numerous ERP packages that are used by businesses and government organizations, which can vary greatly in design (e.g. interfaces, data content, data formats, operational reports, management reports, financial reports). These and other design differences present challenges in the collection of data for auditing supervision management purposes.

This document aims to resolve the common problems that auditors face when requesting data to perform their audit procedures. The information contained within this document will help to improve the accessibility and transparency of audit data, standardize the process of collecting audit data, avoid duplicate efforts and save resources. The worldwide standardization of audit data content and formats will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of government, internal and external audits, and provide benefits to related stakeholders.

This document focuses on major business modules of accounting and ERP systems that are typically used in various organizations. These modules relate to major business processes, including the areas of purchase, sales, inventory, fixed assets and financial reporting, with the aim to identify and specify the data elements and file formats needed for auditing.

This document facilitates the use of analytics and enables regulatory bodies to better fulfil their supervision responsibilities, external auditors to better perform their tasks of assurance, and internal auditors to assist management in making more informed decisions.

The clauses in this document, including the Base (see 4.4), General Ledger (see 4.5), Accounts Receivable (see 4.6), Sales (see 4.7), Accounts Payable (see 4.8), Purchase (see 4.9), Inventory (see 4.10) and Property, Plant and Equipment (see 4.11) modules:

— provide guidelines and specifications for obtaining accounting data;

— define the content requirements of accounting data elements (e.g. fields and tables grouped into modules);

— define the format requirements of data elements;

— specify data interface output files;

— provide thoughts for customizing the standard to meet the needs of the business structure and process variances that can occur in some organizations.