



## Reporting Standard RRS 710.0

# ABS/RBA Audit requirements for Registered Financial Corporations – EFS collection

### Objectives and key requirements of this Reporting Standard

This Reporting Standard establishes requirements for a registered financial corporation (RFC) to ensure that the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have access to the provision of independent advice on the information and internal controls of that RFC, in relation to the Economics and Financial Statistics collection.

Key requirements of this Reporting Standard are that:

- (i) an RFC must submit to APRA all reports required to be prepared by an auditor under this Reporting Standard;
- (ii) an RFC must ensure that the auditor prepares reports on aspects of the RFC in accordance with the requirements and timeframes specified in this Reporting Standard; and
- (iii) an RFC must ensure that, as appropriate, the auditor is able to fulfil its roles and responsibilities in accordance with this Reporting Standard.

### Authority

1. This Reporting Standard is made under section 13 of the *Financial Sector (Collection of Data) Act 2001*.

### Application

2. This Reporting Standard applies to **registered financial corporations (RFCs)** required to report under the **EFS collection**.
3. **RFCs** to which this Reporting Standard applies must comply with this Reporting Standard in its entirety (unless expressly indicated otherwise).
4. This Reporting Standard commences on 1 July 2021.

### **Obligations of an RFC – auditor appointment**

5. An **RFC** must annually appoint an auditor (Auditor) for the purposes of this Reporting Standard.
6. An **RFC** must ensure that the terms of engagement between the **RFC** and the Auditor include:
  - (a) the Auditor’s roles and responsibilities specified in this Reporting Standard; and
  - (b) a requirement that the Auditor, in preparing a report under this Reporting Standard, must have regard to relevant Standards and Guidance issued by the Auditing and Assurance Board (**AUASB**), to the extent that those Standards and Guidance are not inconsistent with the requirements of this Reporting Standard.
7. An **RFC** must use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the Auditor complies with the terms of engagement contained in paragraph 6.
8. An **RFC** must ensure that the Auditor has access to all data, information, reports and staff of the **RFC** that the Auditor reasonably requires to fulfil their role and responsibilities in relation to the **EFS collection**. This includes access to the **RFC** Board and internal auditors as required by the Auditor.
9. An **RFC** must ensure that the Auditor is fully informed of all reporting requirements applicable to the **RFC**. In addition, the **RFC** must ensure that the Auditor is provided with any other information **APRA** has provided to the **RFC** that may assist the Auditor in fulfilling their role and responsibilities in relation to the **EFS collection**.

### **Obligations of an RFC – audit report**

10. An **RFC** must submit to **APRA** the reports referred to in paragraph 15 in relation to the matters set out in paragraph 16. They must be submitted on or before the day specified in paragraph 15.
11. An **RFC**, if requested by **APRA**, must within a reasonable time provide **APRA** with the terms of engagement, other instructions or correspondence, including management letters, which may have a bearing on the:
  - (a) scope or conduct of work undertaken by the Auditor, or,
  - (b) report form, content, or coverage including findings or opinions provided by the Auditor,in accordance with this Reporting Standard.
12. An **RFC** must ensure that the following are provided to its Board:
  - (a) reports provided by the Auditor in accordance with this Reporting Standard, and any associated assessments and other material prepared in connection with fulfilling the requirements of this Reporting Standard;

- (b) commentary or responses provided to the **RFC** by **APRA** (including responses provided by **APRA** on behalf of the **agencies**) on reports provided by the Auditor, and any associated assessments and other material; and
  - (c) any commentary or response given by the **RFC** on the Auditor's reports, associated assessments and other material given by the **RFC** to **APRA**.
13. An **RFC** must ensure that, upon request by **APRA** in writing, the Auditor provides working papers and other documentation to **APRA**.

### **Internal audit**

14. An **RFC** must ensure that the scope of internal audit includes a review of the policies, processes and controls put in place by management for compliance with the **EFS reporting standards**.

### **Responsibilities of the Auditor**

15. An **RFC** must ensure that the Auditor provides reports to the **RFC**'s Board on the matters referred to in paragraph 16 within four months after the **RFC**'s financial year end.
16. An **RFC** must ensure that the reports prepared by the Auditor provide:
- (a) **Reasonable assurance** or **limited assurance** in accordance with paragraph 17 on the information required under:
    - (i) *Reporting Standard ARS 720.0 ABS/RBA Statement of Financial Position;*
    - (ii) *Reporting Standard ARS 720.1 ABS/RBA Loans and Leases;* and
    - (iii) *Reporting Standard ARS 720.2 ABS/RBA Deposits.*
  - (b) **Limited assurance** that the **RFC**'s systems, processes and internal controls:
    - (i) are designed to ensure that the **RFC** has complied with all applicable reporting requirements under the **EFS collection**;
    - (ii) are designed to ensure the **RFC** has provided reliable data to **APRA** as required under the **EFS collection**; and
    - (iii) have operated effectively for the purposes of subparagraphs (b)(i) and (b)(ii) above throughout the **RFC**'s financial year.
17. An **RFC** must ensure that the Auditor, when reporting in accordance with paragraph 16:
- (a) *for data sourced only from accounting records* – provides **reasonable assurance** that the information in these collections, as at the **RFC**'s financial year end, is reliable and in accordance with the relevant reporting standards.
  - (b) *for data sourced only from non-accounting records* – provides **limited assurance** that the information in these collections, as at the **RFC**'s financial year end, is reliable and in accordance with the relevant reporting standards;

- (c) *for data sourced from a combination of accounting records and non-accounting records* – provides *reasonable assurance* that information sourced from *accounting records*, and *limited assurance* that information sourced from *non-accounting records*, as at the RFC's financial year end, is reliable and in accordance with the relevant reporting standards.
18. For the purposes of this Reporting Standard, *reasonable assurance* and *limited assurance* are defined in accordance with the Framework for Assurance Engagements issued by the *AUASB*, and *accounting records* is defined in accordance with the *AUASB Glossary*, both of which are issued under section 227B of the *Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001*.
  19. An *RFC* must ensure that the Auditor, in preparing reports in accordance with paragraph 16:
    - (a) does so on the basis that the *agencies* may rely on the report; and
    - (b) exercises independent judgement and does not place sole reliance on the work performed by *APRA*.
  20. An *RFC* must ensure that the Auditor retains all working papers and other documentation in relation to the requirements set out in paragraph 16, for a period of seven years from the date of the report to which the working papers or documentation relate.

### **Other responsibilities of an RFC**

21. The costs of preparing and submitting reports, documents and other material required by this Reporting Standard must be borne by the *RFC*.
22. An *RFC* must ensure that persons involved in the provision of information for the purposes of the *EFS Collection* (including the Auditor and officers and employees of the *RFC*) should note that it is an offence under subsections 137.1 and 137.2 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* to provide, whether directly or indirectly, false and misleading information to a Commonwealth entity, such as *APRA*.
23. Liaison with the Auditor will normally be conducted under tripartite arrangements involving *APRA* and the *agencies*, the *RFC* and the Auditor. Notwithstanding the tripartite relationship, *APRA* (and/or one or more of *the agencies*), and the Auditor may meet, at any time, on a bilateral basis at the request of either party.

### **Variations and exemptions**

24. *APRA* may, in particular cases, vary this Reporting Standard. If *APRA* makes such a variation it must notify in writing the *RFC* that is required to report under this Reporting Standard. *APRA* may, by notice in writing, exempt an *RFC* from the requirement to comply with specific reporting requirements in this Reporting Standard.

## Interpretation

25. Terms that are defined in *Reporting Standard ARS 701.0 ABS/RBA Definitions for the EFS Collection* (ARS 701.0) or in this Reporting Standard appear in bold italic.
26. In this Reporting Standard:
  - agencies* means the **ABS** and the **RBA**.
  - AUASB** means the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.
27. Unless the contrary intention appears, any reference to an Act, Prudential Standard, Reporting Standard, Australian Accounting or Auditing Standard is a reference to the instrument as in force or existing from time to time.