

Dear Q&A

Does the person issuing an internal audit report need to have internal audit qualifications?

Answer

Internal Audit Standard 2440 'Disseminating Results' requires:

The chief audit executive must communicate results to the appropriate parties.

The Interpretation goes on to say:

The chief audit executive is responsible for reviewing and approving the final engagement communication before issuance and for deciding to whom and how it will be disseminated. When the chief audit executive delegates these duties, he or she retains overall responsibility.

The Internal Audit Standards* are silent on whether the chief audit executive needs to have formal internal audit qualifications in order to issue an internal audit report. While it is a recommended practice for a chief audit executive to be a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) or have another internal audit qualification, it is not mandated.

It is also critical the team actually conducting the engagement and producing the internal audit report be professionally competent to do so – Internal Audit Standard 1210 'Proficiency':

Internal auditors must possess the knowledge, skills, and other competencies needed to perform their individual responsibilities. The internal audit activity collectively must possess or obtain the knowledge, skills, and other competencies needed to perform its responsibilities.

The Interpretation includes:

Internal auditors are encouraged to demonstrate their proficiency by obtaining appropriate professional certifications and qualifications, such as the Certified Internal Auditor designation and other designations offered by The Institute of Internal Auditors and other appropriate professional organisations.

*International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing' contained in the 'International Professional Practices Framework' (IPPF) issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors