



Key compliance attributes of the internal audit function at ECCC

Fiscal year 2023 to 2024



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Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction 1
- 2. Key compliance attributes 1
 - 2.1. Professional designations and training 1
 - 2.2. Conformance with international standards 2
 - 2.3. Implementation of the risk-based audit plan 2
 - 2.4. Credibility and adding value 4

List of Tables

Table 1. Status of completed internal audits with an outstanding management action plan, as well as internal audits in progress and planned for tabling in fiscal year 2024 to 2025..... 3

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CIA	Certified Internal Auditor
CISA	Certified Information Systems Auditor
CGAP	Certified Government Auditing Professional
CPA	Chartered Professional Accountant
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
FY	Fiscal year
IIA	Institute of Internal Auditors
MAP	Management action plan
OCG	Office of the Comptroller General of Canada
QAIP	Quality assurance and improvement program
RBAP	Risk-based audit plan

1. Introduction

The Treasury Board [Directive on Internal Audit](#) requires that departments with an internal audit function publish departmental internal audit performance results in the form of key compliance attributes. The objective of publishing these results is to provide pertinent information to stakeholders, such as Canadians and parliamentarians, on the professionalism, performance and impact of the internal audit function in departments. As well, it is important that the public be aware that heads of government organizations are receiving independent assurance and that departmental activities are managed in a way that demonstrates responsible stewardship.

This report presents the state of compliance in fiscal year (FY) 2023 to 2024 of the internal audit function at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on attributes determined by the Office of the Comptroller General of Canada (OCG). These attributes address questions that stakeholders may have related to the sound management and the oversight of public resources.

2. Key compliance attributes

The internal audit function at ECCC was assessed on the following 4 key compliance attributes:

- Professional designations and training
- Conformance with international standards
- Implementation of the risk-based audit plan
- Credibility and adding value

2.1. Professional designations and training

Questions that stakeholders may have about oversight of public resources:

Do internal auditors in departments have the training required to do the job effectively? Are multidisciplinary teams in place to address diverse risks?

Key compliance attribute	Result
1(a) % of staff with an internal audit or accounting designation (Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA))	58%

1(b) % of staff with an internal audit or accounting designation (CIA, CPA) in progress	42%
1(c) % of staff holding other professional designations (CGAP, CISA, etc.)	50%

2.2. Conformance with international standards

Questions that stakeholders may have about oversight of public resources:

Is internal audit work performed in conformance with the international standards for the profession of internal audit as required by Treasury Board policy?

Key compliance attribute	Result
2(a) Date of last comprehensive briefing to the Departmental Audit Committee on the internal processes, tools, and information considered necessary to evaluate conformance with the Institute of Internal Auditors' (IIA) Code of Ethics and the Standards and the results of the quality assurance and improvement program (QAIP)	June 19, 2023
2(b) Date of last external assessment	March 28, 2024

2.3. Implementation of the risk-based audit plan

Questions that stakeholders may have about oversight of public resources:

Are the risk-based audit plans (RBAPs) submitted to audit committees and approved by deputy heads implemented as planned with resulting reports published? Is management acting on audit recommendations for improvements to departmental processes?

Key compliance attribute	Result
3. RBAPs and related information: (a) name of engagement for the current fiscal year of the RBAP (b) status of engagement for the current fiscal year of the RBAP (c) date the engagement report was approved (d) date the engagement report was published (e) original planned date for completion of all management action plan (MAP) items	See Table 1 for details.

(f) status of MAP items	
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Table 1. Status of completed internal audits with an outstanding management action plan, as well as internal audits in progress and planned for tabling in fiscal year 2024 to 2025

#	Engagement title	Engagement status	Report approved date	Report published date	Original planned MAP completion date	MAP implementation status ¹
1	Audit of the classification function at ECCC	Published – MAP not fully implemented	May 2, 2022	October 31, 2022	March 3, 2024	86%
2	Review of the ECCC Respect Bureau (Joint audit and evaluation engagement)	Published – MAP not fully implemented	January 20, 2023	July 28, 2023	June 30, 2024	20%
3	Audit of the administration of the Public Inquiries Centre at ECCC	Published – MAP not fully implemented	April 14, 2023	August 8, 2023	November 30, 2024	57%
4	Management Practices Review of the Public Affairs and Communications Branch	Published – MAP not fully implemented	May 8, 2023	August 30, 2023	March 31, 2024	14%
5	Audit of ECCC risk management practices	Published – MAP not fully implemented	June 26, 2023	November 10, 2023	April 30, 2024	0%
6	Comparative analysis of ECCC indigenous community engagement processes	Approved – Not published	January 18, 2024	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ Status as of September 30, 2023

7	Internal audit of the system of internal controls over financial reporting	Published – MAP not fully implemented	April 11, 2024	June 26, 2024	December 31, 2024	0%
8	Audit of the administration of grants and contributions programs at ECCC	Approved – Not published	June 28, 2024	In progress	March 31, 2027	0%
9	Audit of cyber security at ECCC	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Review of the implementation of ECCC's Diversity, Inclusion and Employment Equity Plan - Progress to date	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	Review of the use of scientific advice in support of policy development and decision making	In progress	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	Audit of IM/IT governance	Planned	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2.4. Credibility and adding value

Questions that stakeholders may have about oversight of public resources:

Is internal audit credible and adding value in support of the mandate and strategic objectives of the organization?

Key compliance attribute	Result
4. Average overall usefulness rating of areas audited	Good