

## ISSUES PAPER

### Agenda item VII

## MAINTENANCE OF THE ISSAI 4000 SERIES

### CAS meeting Batumi, Georgia 2011

#### Background

According to the terms of reference by the PSC, the ongoing maintenance of the ISSAI 4000 series is the responsibility of CAS. At the PSC steering committee meeting in New Zealand in June it was agreed that the frequencies of maintenance reviews should be decided by the relevant subcommittees and published on [www.issai.org](http://www.issai.org) before November 2011 in order to comply with the due process.

The due process document endorsed by INCOSAI states that once the subcommittee has developed a set of ISSAIs or INTOSAI GOVs, it is responsible for maintaining them. Responsibility for maintaining a given interval of ISSAI and INTOSAI GOV numbers means that the subcommittee monitors new developments that may lead to a need for the development of new ISSAIs or changes in existing ISSAIs or INTOSAI GOVs. At fixed intervals, the subcommittee reviews the ISSAIs and INTOSAI GOVs for which it has the maintenance responsibility. The responsible subcommittee decides on an appropriate frequency in which the maintenance review is carried out. The maintenance frequency is to be communicated on [www.issai.org](http://www.issai.org).

The due process document further describes two alternatives for changing the standards, depending on the scale and contents of the changes to be made:

- A full scale project proposal and endorsement process involving both the PSC steering committee and the governing board or
- A process for revising the standards that only requires the approval of the PSC steering committee

In the process of developing the ISSAI 4000-series, issues have already been addressed as important to look further into in:

- Materiality/pervasiveness – future work
- Sampling – India has taken up the responsibility to prepare a discussion paper
- Limited vs. reasonable assurance – future work
- Reasonable vs limited assurance – future work
- Need for application material – future work
- Opinion – positive vs negative report – future work
- How to set up a monitoring system - how to get feedback on issues to dwell on in maintenance, ie development of the CAS web-site

There are three main sources influencing the development and maintenance of the ISSAI 4000 series:

- The work of the harmonisation project
- Professional development conducted by other standard setting bodies
- Development projects within the compliance audit subcommittee

At the CAS meeting in Batumi the issue of maintenance will be discussed in light of the experiences by the committee members in implementing the Compliance Audit Guidelines. Each committee member is encouraged to reflect on relevant maintenance issues for the ISSAI 4000 series.

### Motion

The ISSAI 4000 series were endorsed at INCOSAI in 2010, and a reasonable period of implementation of the guidelines should be allowed before revising them. Therefore, the chair suggests a maintenance review frequency of **5 years**.

The harmonization project will contribute to the development of concepts, terminology and possibly contents of the Compliance Audit Guidelines. When the project is finalized in 2013, there will be issues for maintenance of the ISSAI 4000 series. But it is still uncertain whether there will be a need for a small scale or a large scale maintenance process afterwards.

The volume of changes in the maintenance process also depends on the needs for substantial changes identified during the implementation of the guidelines worldwide. The committee is therefore encouraged to prioritize between issues of material importance for maintenance and start working on some of these issues.

The secretariat will conduct the responsibility of following the development of other standard setting bodies.

The chair suggests that in 2013 the committee establishes a working group for considering the amount of changes needed in the ISSAI 4000 series on the basis of the outcome of the harmonization project, the maintenance issues worked on in development projects in the committee and relevant changes in other standard series.