

HLB International, through its extensive network of member firms in over 100 countries, can provide a global internal audit service to multi-national companies, which can be particularly effective where common management and financial control systems are in place.

The existence of strong corporate governance within an organisation provides assurance to stakeholders (both internal and external) that the organisation is fulfilling its responsibilities to them. Corporate Governance is built around strong leadership, competent stewardship and the promotion of efficient, effective and ethical use of resources.

INTERNAL AUDIT RESOURCES

Internal audit is a fundamental component of corporate governance structures and processes and should be aligned with critical business procedures. An effective internal audit program will be formulated via a comprehensive and systematic appraisal of all key business risks.

Internal audit explores all facets of business activity from the traditional 'policing' role that concentrates on providing assurance on the operation of key controls, to the role of 'independent advisor', which focuses on efficiency and effectiveness and in assisting management to foster process improvement and facilitate change. More specifically, internal audit monitors the:

- Extent of compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations and directions
- Effectiveness of the design, implementation and operation of internal controls
- The completeness, accuracy and reliability of financial and operating information and underlying records
- The efficiency and effectiveness of business and service delivery processes and outcomes.

Many companies utilise 'in house' internal audit resources, which provide a valuable contribution to the organisation. However the use of external

independent professionals to supplement existing resources, or to operate under an outsourced service delivery arrangement, can lead to a more efficient and cost effective internal audit function.

This work can be coordinated by the "home" member firm who can provide guidance and direction to fellow member firm professionals in other countries so as to produce a cohesive and effective reporting process, both locally and centrally, on the effectiveness of systems as well as on the internal audit function itself.

MULTI-NATIONAL SERVICES CAN INCLUDE:

- Overall risk assessment
- Reviewing and reporting on:
 - The general control environment
 - Specific financial and operational procedures
 - Computer security and audits
- Advice on the drafting and implementation of effective policies and procedures
- Advising on fraud prevention and conducting fraud investigations – where fraud has occurred or is suspected
- Operational reviews of programs, products or services to determine their efficiency and effectiveness including the measurement of outputs and outcomes
- Reviewing the company's own internal audit function
- Acting as the internal audit function – in whole or part

Even if the work is restricted to national or local levels only, expertise in particular areas or industries can be called upon from the HLB network around the world to assist the local member firm.

Whatever your internal audit requirements and whether you are a major multi-national corporation or an owner-controlled business, the HLB International network can provide an effective solution for your internal audit needs.

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