

Preparing a Risk - Based Internal Audit Plan

PUNE ICAI – INTERNAL AUDIT REFRESHER COURSE 8 MAY 2023

ANUJA RAMDASI

AGENDA

Why do we need Audit Plans at all?

Funneling the Audit Universe

Aligning audit with organization objectives

Identifying, assessing and prioritizing risks

Getting the right team in place

Obtaining management buy-in

Continuous monitoring through agility

Success stories – Indian Corporates

WHY DO WE NEED AN AUDIT PLAN AT ALL?



To identify and manage risks: By conducting audits of high-risk areas, organizations can identify potential problems before they become major issues and take steps to mitigate them.



To provide assurance to stakeholders: An effective risk-based audit plan provides assurance to stakeholders that the organization's risks are being effectively managed. This can help to build trust and confidence among stakeholders, such as investors, customers, and regulators.

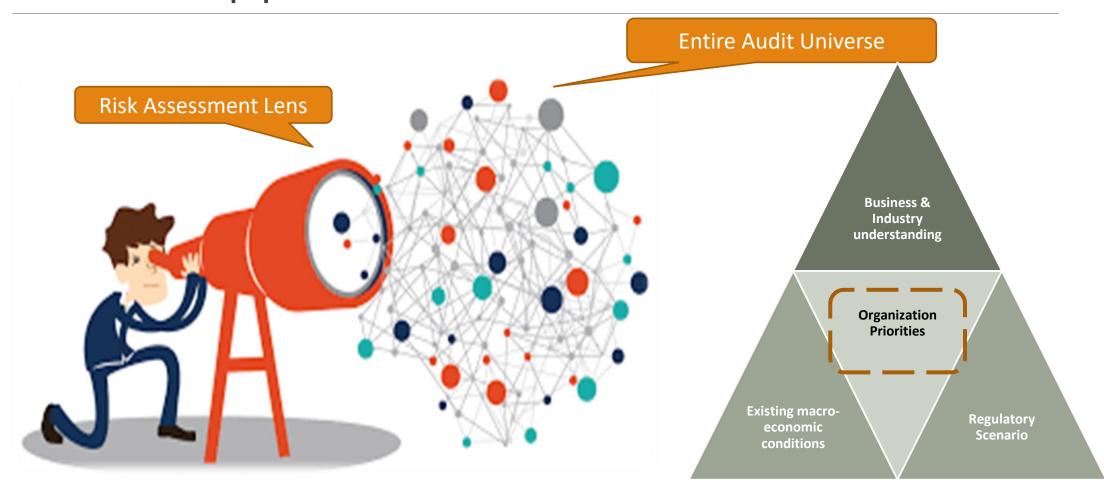


To improve operational efficiency: A risk-based audit plan can help to improve operational efficiency by identifying inefficiencies and areas for improvement. By addressing these issues, organizations can reduce costs, increase productivity, and enhance overall performance.



To comply with regulations and standards: Many industries are subject to regulations and standards that require organizations to have effective risk management processes in place. A risk-based audit plan can help organizations to comply with these requirements and avoid penalties or fines.

Funnel approach for the Audit Universe



Evolution of Risk Based Audit Plan

How about we reflect on evolution of our organization's audit plans over a period of time?

1960-1970s

1940-1950s

Focused on financial accounting and compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditors would typically perform detailed tests of transactions and account balances, focusing on a small sample of items.

Expanded to include operational and performance audits, in addition to financial

Auditors began to focus on identifying and improving inefficient processes and procedures.

1980-1990s

Commencement of usage of more sophisticated tools and techniques, such as computer-assisted auditing techniques (CAATs) and statistical sampling, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of audits.

Early 2000s

Concept of risk-based auditing began to gain traction.

Auditors began to shift their focus from testing a small sample of items to identifying and assessing the risks facing the organization and developing audit plans based on those risks.

Present

Risk-based auditing has become the norm in many organizations.

Auditors use a variety of risk assessment techniques to identify and prioritize the risks facing the organization and develop audit plans based on those risks.

Auditors also use data analytics and other advanced techniques to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of audits.

There is no one success mantra

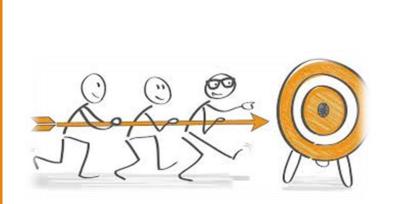
– its dynamic and ever

evolving!!

Organization Objectives



Organization Goal



Organization Audit Strategy



Design an audit strategy and procedure that aligns with organization objectives & Goals

Aligning RBIA with Organization Objectives

Identify key risks: By understanding the organization's objectives, internal auditors can identify the risks that could prevent the organization from achieving its objectives

Prioritize audits: Once the key risks are identified, internal auditors can prioritize audits based on the level of risk and potential impact on the organization's objectives.

Provide assurance: By focusing on the risks that are most significant to the organization's objectives, internal auditors can provide management with assurance that the organization is on track to achieve its goals.

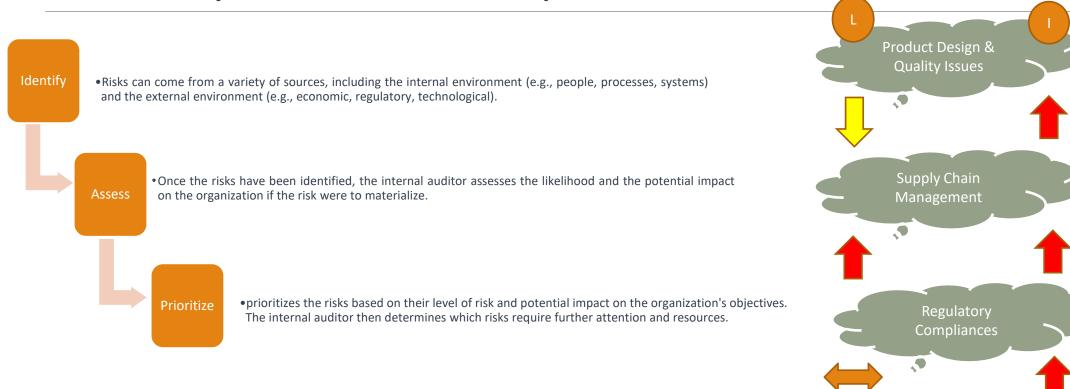
Add value: By aligning the audit plan with the organization's objectives, internal auditors can add value by identifying opportunities to improve processes and procedures that could help the organization achieve its objectives more efficiently or effectively.

If an organization's objective is to increase revenue, internal auditors would <u>identify risks</u> related to sales, marketing, and pricing that could impact the organization's ability to achieve this objective.

If the risk of fraud in the sales process is identified as a highrisk area that could impact the organization's revenue objective, the internal auditor would **prioritize auditing** this area.

If the organization's objective is to improve customer satisfaction, the internal auditor may **identify opportunities** to improve the complaint handling process or customer service training.

Identify, assess and prioritize risks



Putting together a right team for result-oriented audit execution



People ready to stir curious conversations and think Outside the box



People who are subject matter experts – technical expertise



People who understand the business and industry nuances



People who bring outside in perspective – industry best practices



The real benefit of RBIA – management buy-in







Preserving Shareholders Value

Growing Shareholders Value

Cybersecurity

Business Opportunity

Supply Chain Disruptions

Collaboration Exploring new markets

Climate Change

Sustainable Living Reducing Carbon Footprints

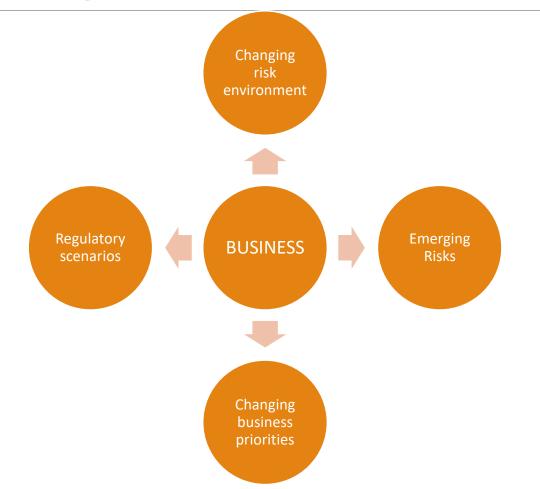
Attrition and lay-offs

Exploring Tier 2 cities' talent pool Business restructuring

Embracing agility through RBIA

To achieve agility in a risk-based audit plan, it's important to have-

- A robust and on-going risk assessment process
- Regular communication and collaboration with key stakeholders
- 3. A flexible approach to resource allocation
- Data Analytics to indicate future trends and stay prepared as against post-martum reporting
- 5. A change of approach from fault finding to business partnering



Business – Risk – Audit – The close connection



Examples of successful implementation of RBIA in Indian Corporates



TATA Steel risk profiling program at plant – ground force in action – bottom-up approach

cs-tata-steel.pdf (consultdss.com)

HDFC Bank's stress testing approach to Risk - stress testing based on topical themes driven by prevailing geo-political, macro-economic and sectoral trends



HDFC Bank - Integrated Annual Report 2021-22

Examples of successful implementation of RBIA in Indian Corporates



Infosys implemented a risk-based audit plan that focused on identifying and mitigating risks in their IT services and business operations.

White paper on Infosys Enterprise Risk Management



Reliance's integrated risk management aims at effective management of risks and also to capture opportunities

RIL-IR2022-RiskAndGovernance.pdf



ANUJA RAMDASI | Head Internal Audit – Persistent Systems Limited

Anuja Ramdasi | LinkedIn

anuja ramdasi@persistent.com

Thank you