

AUDITOR NOTES

Effective Date: August 20, 2025

Owned by: Manager,
Safety Audits and Certifications

Approval: Andy Reimer

Approved By: Andy Reimer

Next Review: August 20, 2028

Sensitivity Level: Public


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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This Summary shows:

- All changes from last approved and published document
- The location within the document where the changes have been made

Version	Date	Author(s)	Revision Notes
1.0	December 05, 2018	Melissa Mass	This is the first revision of the Auditor Notes Procedure. This revision brings the Procedure template into alignment with the templates used by the Governing Documents Framework.
1.1	September 28, 2021	Juliet Goodwin	3 Year Review Update to Alberta Partnerships standard updates for 1.15 Auditor Notes
1.2	April 28, 2022	Courtney Christie	April 26, 2022 Updated Draft to AB Partnerships Program Policy 1.15 Auditor Notes.
1.3	August 21, 2025	Jolene Gust	3 Year Review Updated 3.0 Terms and Definitions to align with the CHSAP Participant Manual Version 22.1.

 Requirements changed in the new revision will be identified with a revision triangle beside it.

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SUMMARY OF REVIEWERS

The following people were involved in the review of this Procedure.

Name	Position
Andy Reimer	Manager, Safety Audits and Certification
Jolene Gust	Quality Assurance Safety Audits and Certification

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1.0 ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE

1.1 Purpose and Direction

This procedure underscores the necessity of providing effective auditor notes for each audit question and clarifies expectations with respect to these notes.

This procedure does not apply to SECOR assessors.

The Energy Safety Canada Certificate of Recognition (COR) and Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR) External audit protocols require auditors to provide a note to justify the score assigned for each audit question. This allows the auditor to explain their rationale for the scores assigned, verifies whether the auditor followed audit guidelines in completing the audit process, and adds value to the audit report for the employer.

1.2 Target Audience

The target audience for this document is all Energy Safety Canada personnel. This includes:

- All Energy Safety Canada employees, contract workers, consultants and agents of Energy Safety Canada.

2.0 PROCEDURE

2.1 Scoring Justification

2.1.1 The auditor must write a formal note to justify the scoring of every audit question. These notes must:

- Reflect that the question guidelines are followed.
- Be consistent with the notes and score awarded for other related questions.
- Indicate the validation method(s) used to score the question.
- Indicate the results for each technique, if more than one validation technique is required to score a question (i.e. examples of positive or negative indicators).
- Indicate what documentation was reviewed, what and where observations were completed, and interview results. Include references to company specific examples for each.
- For questions that require a percentage of positive indicators for scoring, include quantification (e.g. 8/12) to support the note (i.e. cascade questions for hazard assessment, etc.).

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2.2 Auditor Note Quality

2.2.1 Auditor notes must be original and specific to the audited employer’s health and safety systems during the period of the current audit.

2.2.2 Auditor notes in the final audit report submitted to Energy Safety Canada and the employer should not include the following:

- Any direct reference to a specific employee.
- Personal opinions of the auditor.
- Simple restatement of the audit question as the only justification for the score awarded.
- Contradictory information.
- Boilerplated or templated notes.

2.2.3 Auditor notes will be verified during the quality assurance (QA) review process by Energy Safety Canada.

2.2.4 The Auditor Performance Management system would be engaged for audit reports that do not meet the requirements outlined in this procedure.

3.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Boilerplated Notes	Boilerplating involves copying all or a portion of an audit report from one audit and then re-using it for another audit, making very few changes.
Templated Notes	Templating involves using pre-crafted ready-made notes and recommendations for multiple audit reports. These notes and recommendations may be modified to include some specific findings but are for the most part unoriginal.
Quantification	Specific areas of the audit require further information to support the score awarded and the findings. (e.g. 8/12) to support the note, for questions that require a percentage of positive indicators for scoring (i.e. cascade questions for hazard assessment, etc.).
Company Specific	The auditor notes require information that includes company specific examples to further confirm findings such as:

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Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• direct or indirect references to specific items or language within the documentation,• referencing or describing specified locations, equipment, or other site-specific details from the observation tour,• direct quotes or references to company specific equipment, locations, or events during interviews, and,• be specific to the company but not break the confidence of employees participating in the audit process.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[COR Audit Quality Assurance Review](#)

[Auditor Performance Management](#)

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