

THE USE OF CONTROL SELF-ASSESSMENT IN AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT

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ABSTRACT

Control self-assessment (CSA) is an effective tool being used by many organizations in an effort to continually improve their internal control systems and business processes. CSA is very versatile and it can also be used by independent auditors to achieve auditing objectives that are difficult to accomplish with traditional auditing procedures. The tool is particularly effective in the assessment of the “soft” controls that constitute a significant portion of the control environment, risk assessment, and monitoring components of internal control. This paper describes CSA and its salient advantages and then discusses the ways in which CSA can be used to more effectively achieve independent auditing objectives in conformance with professional standards.