Governance and Internal Audit Quality Assurance

IIA Quality Services’ assessment teams evaluate various internal audit activities each year to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of quality assurance and improvement programs (QAIP) as related to conformance with the Standards. An optimized approach for successful governance practice establishes internal audit as an inherent part of monitoring in the governance process by management and the audit committee, where internal audit participates in the sharing of information to affect good governance practices.

The internal audit charter specifies that internal audit is an essential component of the governance structure.

Internal audit annual audit plans incorporate a governance component through broad communication and assessment of governance-related activities across the organization.

Aspects of ethics and compliance are evaluated as a component of defined engagements in the audit plan as well as part of a comprehensive, programmatic review.

Evaluation of IT governance typically includes an evaluation of the use of control frameworks by the IT organization such as COBIT, ITIL, or NIST, and alignment with the strategies, objectives, and risks of the organization.

The corporate ethics and compliance program and IT governance are included in the audit universe, evaluated as part of the annual risk assessment, incorporated into the annual audit plan as appropriate, and performed on a periodic basis.

Standards 2110 – Governance
The internal audit activity must assess and make appropriate recommendations to improve the organization’s governance processes for:
- Making strategic and operational decisions.
- Overseeing risk management and control.
- Promoting appropriate ethics and values within the organization.
- Ensuring effective organizational performance management and accountability.
- Communicating risk and control information to appropriate areas of the organization.
- Coordinating the activities of, and communicating information among, the board, external and internal auditors, other assurance providers, and management.

2110.A1 – The internal audit activity must evaluate the design, implementation, and effectiveness of the organization’s ethics-related objectives, programs, and activities.

2110.A2 – The internal audit activity must assess whether the information technology governance of the organization supports the organization’s strategies and objectives.