Which Companies Should Submit AFS’s in the iXBRL format?

In the process of filing an Annual Return via CIPC, companies are "required" to provide financial information by either submitting an Annual Financial Statement (AFS) in the iXBRL format or a Financial Accountability Supplement (FAS) which is a 1-page online form where minimal basic information relating to the financial affairs of the company is requested. To be compliant with the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (as amended), it is important that companies make the correct determination with respect to whether they should submit AFS in the iXBRL format or an FAS as directed by CIPC in terms of its mandate. The below criteria will assist companies to make the correct determination:

- If you are required by the Companies Act 71 of 2008 to produce “audited” AFSs, then you should submit your AFS in the iXBRL format. Companies that are required to produce audited AFSs are those that fall within the following categories:
  - All public companies
  - Companies that have an explicit stipulation in their Memoranda of Incorporation (MOIs) that they should audit or voluntarily audit their AFSs
  - Companies whose Public Interest Score is 350 or more
  - Companies that, in the ordinary course of their primary activities, hold assets in a fiduciary capacity for persons who are not related to them, and the aggregate value of such assets held at any time during the financial year exceeds R5 million;

Companies that fall below the 350 PI score threshold should take heed of the other provisions which may require them to submit AFSs in iXBRL format, namely bullet points 2 and 4 above.

- Companies that voluntarily audit their AFS based on a shareholder’s resolution or board decision and those that have their AFS independently reviewed are not obliged to submit their AFS in the iXBRL format, but may do so if they wish.

The diagram below may assist companies in determining what to submit to the Commission when filing their Annual Returns in terms of Section 33 of the Companies Act:
Filing of AFS via XBRL

Audit decision tree

Section 30

Voluntary Audit
(Section 30(2)(b)(i))

Option only for Voluntary Audit
Audit in terms of (1) & (2)

Independent Review
(Section 30(2)(b)(ii)(a))

May file AFS to CIPC
(In terms of Regulation 30[3])

If elected not to file

File a financial accountability report
(In terms of Regulation 30[2])

Mandatory Audit

In terms of (1) & (2)

(1) Shareholders Resolution
(2) Board Decision

In terms of (3)

(4) Notice

In terms of (3) must file AFS

Constitutes a legally binding document available for public access and is therefore construed a legal obligation under “the Act”

Must file AFS to CIPC
(In terms of Regulation 30[2])

For more information, visit our iXBRL Page at www.cipc.co.za/index.php?clid=1329 or e-Mail us (Maphuthumene Masilela) at xbrl@cipc.co.za.

Yours faithfully,

Adv. Rory Voller

Commissioner: CIPC

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