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Amendment to the Agency's internal control standard on sensitive functions

Management Board meeting of 7 October 2010

Background note

In December 2008, the Management Board adopted revised internal control standards (ICS) for effective management, with effect from January 2009 (EMA/MB/278569/2008), following the Commission's revision of its ICS effective from 1 January 2008.

At the same time, the Management Board was informed that the Agency would develop revised guidance on sensitive functions once the Commission had released its revised guidelines on the subject.

Matters for consideration

In 2010, the Agency revised its guidance on sensitive functions to bring them into line with those of the Commission. As a consequence of this revision, an amendment is due to internal control standard 7 – 'Risks associated with the Agency's sensitive functions are managed through mitigating controls and, ultimately, staff mobility.'

At the Commission, mandatory mobility is relatively easy to implement because of its size and the availability of alternative posts. At the Agency, however, due to a limited number of posts and staff working in specialised areas, mandatory mobility cannot be enforced and risks associated with sensitive tasks will have to be managed through specific ex-post controls and/or focused audit every two years.

Consequently, internal control standard 7 will have to be amended to: 'Risks associated with the Agency's sensitive functions are managed through mitigating controls and by specific ex-post controls and/or focused audit every two years.'