

Report on

2015 Inspection of Marcum LLP
(Headquartered in Melville, New York)

Issued by the

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

June 16, 2016

THIS IS A PUBLIC VERSION OF A PCAOB INSPECTION REPORT

**PORTIONS OF THE COMPLETE REPORT ARE OMITTED
FROM THIS DOCUMENT IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH
SECTIONS 104(g)(2) AND 105(b)(5)(A)
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**



2015 INSPECTION OF MARCUM LLP

Preface

In 2015, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB" or "the Board") conducted an inspection of the registered public accounting firm Marcum LLP ("the Firm") pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("the Act").

Inspections are designed and performed to provide a basis for assessing the degree of compliance by a firm with applicable requirements related to auditing issuers. For a description of the procedures the Board's inspectors may perform to fulfill this responsibility, see Part I.D of this report (which also contains additional information concerning PCAOB inspections generally). The inspection included reviews of portions of selected issuer audits. These reviews were intended to identify whether deficiencies existed in the reviewed audit work, and whether such deficiencies indicated defects or potential defects in the Firm's system of quality control over audits. In addition, the inspection included a review of policies and procedures related to certain quality control processes of the Firm that could be expected to affect audit quality.

The Board is issuing this report in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The Board is releasing to the public Part I of the report and portions of Appendix A. Appendix A consists of the Firm's comments, if any, on a draft of the report. If the nonpublic portions of the report discuss criticisms of or potential defects in the Firm's system of quality control, those discussions also could eventually be made public, but only to the extent the Firm fails to address the criticisms to the Board's satisfaction within 12 months of the issuance of the report.

Note on this report's citations to auditing standards: On March 31, 2015, the PCAOB adopted a reorganization of its auditing standards using a topical structure and a single, integrated numbering system. See *Reorganization of PCAOB Auditing Standards and Related Amendments to PCAOB Standards and Rules*, PCAOB Release No. 2015-002 (Mar. 31, 2015). The reorganization of the standards will be effective as of December 31, 2016, but the reorganized numbering system may be used before that date. In this report, citations to PCAOB auditing standards use the numbering system and titles of standards that were in effect at the time of the primary inspection procedures accompanied by a reference to the new number under the reorganization.

PART I

INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS

Members of the Board's staff ("the inspection team") conducted primary procedures¹ for the inspection from June 10, 2015 through June 19, 2015. The inspection team performed field work at the Firm's headquarters in Melville, New York.

A. Review of Audit Engagements

The inspection procedures included reviews of portions of eight issuer audits performed by the Firm. This review did not identify any audit performance issues that, in the inspection team's view, resulted in the Firm failing to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to support an audit opinion.

B. Review of Quality Control System

In addition to evaluating the quality of the audit work performed on specific audits, the inspection included review of certain of the Firm's practices, policies, and procedures related to audit quality. This review addressed practices, policies, and procedures concerning (1) management structure and processes, including tone at the top; (2) partner management, including allocation of partner resources and partner evaluation, compensation, admission, and disciplinary actions; (3) client acceptance and retention; and (4) monitoring audit performance.

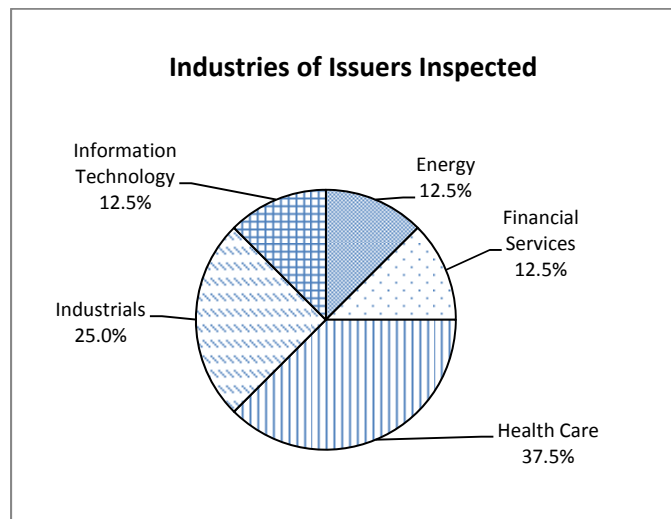
C. Data Related to the Issuer Audits Selected for Inspection

C.1. Industries of Issuers Inspected

The chart below categorizes the eight issuers whose audits were inspected in 2015, based on the issuer's industry.²

¹ For this purpose, the time span for "primary procedures" includes field work, other review of audit work papers, and the evaluation of the Firm's quality control policies and procedures through review of documentation and interviews of Firm personnel. The time span does not include (1) inspection planning, which may commence months before the primary procedures, and (2) inspection follow-up procedures, wrap-up, analysis of results, and the preparation of the inspection report, which generally extend beyond the primary procedures.

² The majority of industry sector data is based on Global Industry Classification Standard ("GICS") data obtained from Standard & Poor's ("S&P"). In



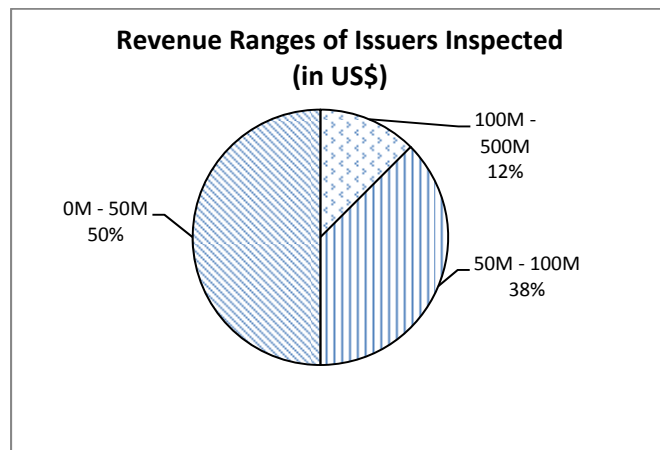
Industry	Number of Audits Inspected	Percentage
Energy	1	12.5%
Financial Services	1	12.5%
Health Care	3	37.5%
Industrials	2	25.0%
Information Technology	1	12.5%

C.2. Revenue Ranges of Issuers Inspected

The chart below categorizes, based upon revenue, the eight issuers whose audits were inspected in 2015.³ This presentation of revenue data is intended to provide information about the size of issuer audits that were inspected and is not indicative of whether the inspection included a review of the Firm's auditing of revenue in the issuer audits selected for review.

instances where GICS for an issuer was not available from S&P, classifications were assigned based upon North American Industry Classification System data.

³ The revenue amounts reflected in the chart are for the issuer's fiscal year end that corresponds to the audit inspected by the PCAOB. The revenue amounts were obtained from S&P and reflect a standardized approach to presenting revenue amounts.



Revenue (in US\$)	Number of Audits Inspected	Percentage
0-50 million	4	50%
50 – 100 million	3	38%
100 -500 million	1	12%

D. Information Concerning PCAOB Inspections that is Generally Applicable to Annually Inspected Firms

Board inspections include reviews of certain portions of selected audit work performed by the inspected firm and reviews of certain aspects of the firm's quality control system. The inspections are designed to identify deficiencies in audit work and defects or potential defects in the firm's system of quality control related to the firm's audits. The focus on deficiencies, defects, and potential defects necessarily carries through to reports on inspections and, accordingly, Board inspection reports are not intended to serve as balanced report cards or overall rating tools. Further, the inclusion in an inspection report of certain deficiencies, defects, and potential defects should not be construed as an indication that the Board has made any determination about other aspects of the inspected firm's systems, policies, procedures, practices, or conduct not included within the report.

D.1. Reviews of Audit Work

Inspections include reviews of portions of selected audits of financial statements and, where applicable, audits of internal control over financial reporting ("ICFR"). For these audits, the inspection team selects certain portions of the audits for inspection, and it reviews the engagement team's work papers and interviews engagement personnel regarding those portions. If the inspection team identifies a potential issue that it is unable to resolve through discussion with the firm and any review of additional work papers or other documentation, the inspection team ordinarily provides the firm with a written comment form on the matter and the firm is allowed the opportunity to provide a written response to the comment form. If the response does not resolve the inspection team's concerns, the matter is considered a deficiency and is evaluated for inclusion in the inspection report.

The inspection team selects the audits, and the specific portions of those audits, that it will review, and the inspected firm is not allowed an opportunity to limit or influence the selections. Audit deficiencies that the inspection team may identify include a firm's failure to identify, or to address appropriately, financial statement misstatements, including failures to comply with disclosure requirements,⁴ as well as a firm's failure to perform, or to perform sufficiently, certain necessary audit procedures. An inspection of an annually inspected firm does not involve the review of all of the firm's audits, nor is it designed to identify every deficiency in the reviewed audits. Accordingly, a Board inspection report should not be understood to provide any assurance that a firm's audit work, or the relevant issuers' financial statements or reporting on ICFR, are free of any deficiencies not specifically described in an inspection report.

In some cases, the conclusion that a firm did not perform a procedure may be based on the absence of documentation and the absence of persuasive other evidence, even if the firm claimed to have performed the procedure. AS No. 3, *Audit Documentation*,⁵ provides that, in various circumstances including PCAOB inspections, a firm that has not adequately documented that it performed a procedure, obtained evidence, or reached an appropriate conclusion must demonstrate with persuasive other evidence that it did so, and that oral assertions and explanations alone do not constitute persuasive other evidence. In reaching its conclusions, an inspection team considers whether audit documentation or any other evidence that a firm might provide to the inspection team supports the firm's contention that it performed a procedure, obtained evidence, or reached an appropriate conclusion. In the case of every matter cited in the public portion of a final inspection report, the inspection team has carefully considered any contention by the firm that it did so but just did not document its work, and the inspection team has concluded that the available evidence does not support the contention that the firm sufficiently performed the necessary work.

⁴ When it comes to the Board's attention that an issuer's financial statements appear not to present fairly, in a material respect, the financial position, results of operations, or cash flows of the issuer in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework, the Board's practice is to report that information to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC" or "the Commission"), which has jurisdiction to determine proper accounting in issuers' financial statements. Any description in this report of financial statement misstatements or failures to comply with SEC disclosure requirements should not be understood as an indication that the SEC has considered or made any determination regarding these issues unless otherwise expressly stated.

⁵ Under the reorganization of PCAOB standards, AS No. 3 is AS 1215.

Identified deficiencies in the audit work that exceed a significance threshold are summarized in the public portion of the inspection report.⁶

The Board cautions against extrapolating from the results presented in the public portion of a report to broader conclusions about the frequency of deficiencies throughout the firm's practice. Individual audits and areas of inspection focus are most often selected on a risk-weighted basis and not randomly. Areas of focus vary among selected audits, but often involve audit work on the most difficult or inherently uncertain areas of financial statements. Thus, the audit work is generally selected for inspection based on factors that, in the inspection team's view, heighten the possibility that auditing deficiencies are present, rather than through a process intended to identify a representative sample.

D.2. Review of a Firm's Quality Control System

QC 20, *System of Quality Control for a CPA Firm's Accounting and Auditing Practice* provides that an auditing firm has a responsibility to ensure that its personnel comply with the applicable professional standards. This standard specifies that a firm's system of quality control should encompass the following elements: (1) independence, integrity, and objectivity; (2) personnel management; (3) acceptance and continuance of issuer audit engagements; (4) engagement performance; and (5) monitoring.

The inspection team's assessment of a firm's quality control system is derived both from the results of its procedures specifically focused on the firm's quality control policies and procedures, and also from inferences that can be drawn from deficiencies in the performance of individual audits. Audit deficiencies, whether alone or when aggregated, may indicate areas where a firm's system has failed to provide reasonable assurance of quality in the performance of audits. Even deficiencies that do not result in an insufficiently supported audit opinion may indicate a defect or potential defect in a

⁶ The discussion in this report of any deficiency observed in a particular audit reflects information reported to the Board by the inspection team and does not reflect any determination by the Board as to whether the Firm has engaged in any conduct for which it could be sanctioned through the Board's disciplinary process. In addition, any references in this report to violations or potential violations of law, rules, or professional standards are not a result of an adversarial adjudicative process and do not constitute conclusive findings for purposes of imposing legal liability.

firm's quality control system.⁷ If identified deficiencies, when accumulated and evaluated, indicate defects or potential defects in the firm's system of quality control, the nonpublic portion of this report would include a discussion of those issues. When evaluating whether identified deficiencies in individual audits indicate a defect or potential defect in a firm's system of quality control, the inspection team considers the nature, significance, and frequency of deficiencies;⁸ related firm methodology, guidance, and practices; and possible root causes.

Inspections also include a review of certain of the firm's practices, policies, and processes related to audit quality, which constitute a part of the firm's quality control system. The inspection team customizes the procedures it performs with respect to the firm's practices, policies, and processes related to audit quality, bearing in mind the firm's structure, procedures performed in prior inspections, past and current inspection observations, an assessment of risk related to each area, and other factors. The areas generally considered for review include (1) management structure and processes, including the tone at the top; (2) practices for partner management, including allocation of partner resources and partner evaluation, compensation, admission, and disciplinary actions; (3) policies and procedures for considering and addressing the risks involved in accepting and retaining issuer audit engagements, including the application of the firm's risk-rating system; and (4) the firm's processes for monitoring audit performance, including processes for identifying and assessing indicators of deficiencies in audit performance, independence policies and procedures, and processes for responding to defects or potential defects in quality control. A description of the procedures generally applied to these areas is below.

⁷ Not every audit deficiency suggests a defect or potential defect in a firm's quality control system, and this report does not discuss every audit deficiency the inspection team identified.

⁸ An evaluation of the frequency of a type of deficiency may include consideration of how often the inspection team reviewed audit work that presented the opportunity for similar deficiencies to occur. In some cases, even a type of deficiency that is observed infrequently in a particular inspection may, because of some combination of its nature, its significance, and the frequency with which it has been observed in previous inspections of the firm, be cause for concern about a quality control defect or potential defect.

D.2.a. Review of Management Structure and Processes, Including the Tone at the Top

Procedures in this area are designed to focus on (1) how management is structured and operates the firm's business, and the implications that the management structure and processes have on audit performance and (2) whether actions and communications by the firm's leadership – the tone at the top – demonstrate a commitment to audit quality. To assess this area, the inspection team may interview members of the firm's leadership and review significant management reports and documents, as well as information regarding financial metrics and other processes that the firm uses to plan and evaluate its business.

D.2.b. Review of Practices for Partner Management, Including Allocation of Partner Resources and Partner Evaluation, Compensation, Admission, and Disciplinary Actions

Procedures in this area are designed to focus on (1) whether the firm's processes related to partner evaluation, compensation, admission, termination, and disciplinary actions could be expected to encourage an appropriate emphasis on audit quality and technical competence, as distinct from marketing or other activities of the firm; (2) the firm's processes for allocating its partner resources; and (3) the accountability and responsibilities of the different levels of firm management with respect to partner management. The inspection team may interview members of the firm's management and review documentation related to certain of these topics. In addition, the inspection team's evaluation may include the results of interviews of audit partners regarding their responsibilities and allocation of time. Further, the inspection team may review a sample of partners' personnel files.

D.2.c. Review of Policies and Procedures for Considering and Addressing the Risks Involved in Accepting and Retaining Issuer Audit Engagements, Including the Application of the Firm's Risk-Rating System

The inspection team may consider the firm's documented policies and procedures in this area. In addition, the inspection team may select certain issuer audits to (1) evaluate compliance with the firm's policies and procedures for identifying and assessing the risks involved in accepting or continuing the issuer audit engagements and (2) observe whether the audit procedures were responsive to the risks identified during the firm's process.

D.2.d. Review of a Firm's Processes for Monitoring Audit Performance, Including Processes for Identifying and Assessing Indicators of Deficiencies in Audit Performance, Independence Policies and Procedures, and Processes for Responding to Defects or Potential Defects in Quality Control

D.2.d.i. Review of Processes for Identifying and Assessing Indicators of Deficiencies in Audit Performance

Procedures in this area are designed to identify and assess the monitoring processes that the firm uses to monitor audit quality for individual engagements and for the firm as a whole. The inspection team may interview members of the firm's management and review documents relating to the firm's identification and evaluation of, and response to, possible indicators of deficiencies in audit performance. In addition, the inspection team may review documents related to the design, operation, and evaluation of findings of the firm's internal inspection program, and may compare the results of its review of audit work to those from the internal inspection's review of the same audit work.

D.2.d.ii. Review of Response to Defects or Potential Defects in Quality Control

The inspection team may review steps the firm has taken to address possible quality control deficiencies and assess the design and effectiveness of the underlying processes. In addition, the inspection team may inspect audits of issuers whose audits had been reviewed during previous PCAOB inspections of the firm to ascertain whether the audit procedures in areas with previous deficiencies have improved.

D.2.d.iii. Review of Certain Other Policies and Procedures Related to Monitoring Audit Quality

The inspection team may assess policies, procedures, and guidance related to aspects of independence requirements and the firm's consultation processes, as well as the firm's compliance with these requirements and processes. In addition, the inspection team may review documents, including certain newly issued policies and procedures, and interview firm management to consider the firm's methods for developing audit policies, procedures, and methodologies, including internal guidance and training materials.

END OF PART I

PORTIONS OF THE REST OF THIS REPORT ARE NONPUBLIC AND ARE OMITTED
FROM THIS PUBLIC DOCUMENT

PART II

OBSERVATIONS ON QUALITY CONTROL AND OTHER MATTERS

This Part II contains a description of certain additional inspection observations. Part II.A contains a discussion of criticisms of and potential defects in the Firm's quality control system. Part II.B describes information reported by the inspection team concerning instances in which it appeared to the inspection team that the Firm had not satisfied independence criteria.

A. Issues Related to Quality Controls⁹

As described below, an analysis of the inspection results reported by the inspection team, including the results of the reviews of individual audits, indicates that the Firm's system of quality control requires remedial action in order to provide sufficient assurance that the Firm's audit work will meet applicable standards and requirements.

* * * *

Deficiencies in the Design of System of Quality Control Related to Compliance with Independence Requirements

Under PCAOB quality control standards, a firm should have policies and procedures to provide the firm with reasonable assurance that the firm and its personnel maintain independence in all required circumstances (QC 20 paragraph .09). The inspection results indicate that deficiencies may exist in the Firm's system of quality control with respect to compliance with independence requirements.

* * * *

⁹ This report's description of quality control issues is based on the inspection team's observations during the primary inspection procedures. Any changes or improvements that the Firm may have made in its system of quality control since that time may not be reflected in this report, but * * * * [have been] taken into account by the Board during its assessment of whether the Firm has satisfactorily addressed the quality control criticisms or defects within the twelve months after the issuance of this report.

Maintaining Independence

The Firm's system of quality control may not provide sufficient assurance that the Firm will comply with independence requirements. * * * [T]he inspection team reported that, in 37 engagements, it appeared to the inspection team that the Firm had not satisfied independence criteria in one or both of the two most recent years.

* * * *

APPENDIX A

RESPONSE OF THE FIRM TO DRAFT INSPECTION REPORT

Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(a), the Firm provided a written response to a draft of this report. Pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), the Firm's response, minus any portion granted confidential treatment, is attached hereto and made part of this final inspection report.¹⁰

¹⁰ The Board does not make public any of a firm's comments that address a nonpublic portion of the report unless a firm specifically requests otherwise. In some cases, the result may be that none of a firm's response is made publicly available. In addition, pursuant to section 104(f) of the Act, 15 U.S.C. § 7214(f), and PCAOB Rule 4007(b), if a firm requests, and the Board grants, confidential treatment for any of the firm's comments on a draft report, the Board does not include those comments in the final report at all. The Board routinely grants confidential treatment, if requested, for any portion of a firm's response that addresses any point in the draft that the Board omits from, or any inaccurate statement in the draft that the Board corrects in, the final report.



April 18, 2016

Ms. Helen A. Munter
Director
Division of Registration and Inspections
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
1666 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Response to Part I of the 2015 Draft Inspection Report of Marcum LLP

Dear Ms. Munter:

We are pleased to provide you with our response to the draft report on the 2015 Inspection of Marcum LLP conducted by the PCAOB staff. We support the PCAOB's goals and believe that the inspection process has been effective, will continue to improve audit quality, and has also helped maintain the public's confidence in the U.S. capital markets.

We are very pleased that your inspection team reported no performance issues or engagement deficiencies based on their review of selected audit engagements. Nevertheless, be assured that Marcum LLP is committed to continuously improving our audit quality.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this response and we look forward to working with the PCAOB staff in future inspections.

Very truly yours,

Marcum LLP

Marcum LLP

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April 18, 2016

Ms. Helen A. Munter
Director
Division of Registration and Inspections
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
1666 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Nonpublic Response to Part II of the 2015 Draft Inspection Report of Marcum LLP (the
"Firm")

Dear Ms. Munter:

We are pleased to provide the following response to the inspection results detailed in Part II of the PCAOB's 2015 Draft Inspection Report, with respect to Issues Related to Quality Controls.

* * * * REDACTED. Comments on Non-public Aspects of Report



Marcum LLP ■ 10 Melville Park Road ■ Melville, New York 11747 ■ Phone 631.414.4000 ■ Fax 631.414.4001 ■ marcumllp.com

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* * * * REDACTED. Comments on Non-public Aspects of Report

A.2.b. & C- Maintaining Independence

PCAOB Comment

The Firm's system of quality control appears not to provide sufficient assurance that the Firm will comply with independence requirements. As described in Part II.C below, the inspection team reported that, in 37 engagements, the Firm appeared not to have satisfied independence criteria in one or both of the two most recent years.

* * * * REDACTED. Comments on Non-public Aspects of Report

Firm's Response

We respectfully disagree with the PCAOB's conclusion that the Firm did not maintain its independence with respect to the Firm's issuer audit clients * * * *

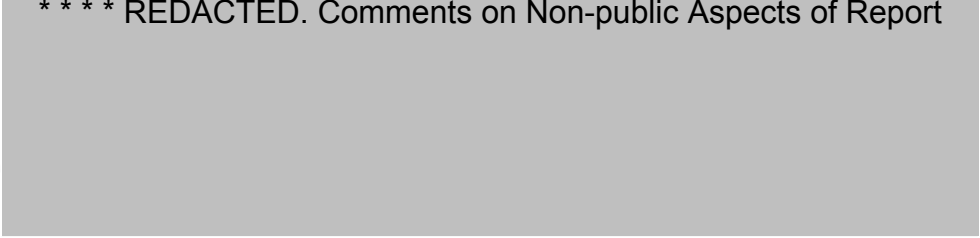
The Firm conducted a comprehensive analysis of applicable Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), PCAOB and AICPA Rules and Interpretive Guidance. We have found no rules, interpretations, or decisions that apply the independence standards in the way proposed by the Board.

* * * * REDACTED. Comments on Non-public Aspects of Report

We've provided below the Firm's analysis of the independence issue and respectfully ask the Board to reconsider the finding in the draft report. The Firm has, however, taken steps to address the Board's concern, which we describe in our conclusion below, and we remain open to discussing these issues further.

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* * * * REDACTED. Comments on Non-public Aspects of Report



We would like to emphasize that the Firm is very serious about improving our system of quality control and believe that we operate at an extremely high quality level. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our views in response to Part II of the 2015 Draft Report. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with you prior to your finalization of your report.

Very truly yours,

Marcum LLP

Marcum LLP

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