



# The Auditing Roundtable Fact Sheet

The Auditing Roundtable (AR) is a professional society founded in 1982 by ten corporate environmental audit program managers, and has since expanded scope to include health & safety. Today, the Roundtable represents the voice of the profession with more than 650 members. Its primary mission is to enhance the practice of EHS auditing by creating a forum and organization to advance ideas, procedures and member interaction, both in the United States and internationally. The Roundtable's mission is further defined to:

- Promote best practices in Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) compliance and management system auditing
- Establish auditing standards
- Develop and offer certification programs through the Board of Environmental, Health & Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC)

## Promote Best Practices

Promotion of best practices is accomplished through a wide variety of initiatives and programs, and underlying these is the Roundtable's [Code of Ethics](#) by which all Roundtable members have agreed to abide.

The Auditing Roundtable is a member-driven organization and accomplishes its mission through the actions of its Steering Committees and Interest Groups. The Roundtable is governed by its Board of Directors, and administered by its Managing Director. Key Roundtable functions are guided by three steering committees composed of representatives from the Board of Directors and the general membership. These committees include:

- The External Affairs Steering Committee, established to guide Auditing Roundtable interface with other organizations; promote increased awareness of the Roundtable and its mission; maintain contact with selected organizations with mutual interests; and guide interaction with state and federal agencies.
- The Meetings Steering Committee, which guides international, national and regional meeting development. Meetings are a central tool for the AR to serve the members' EHS auditing continuing education needs and interests, address current EHS auditing and management practice, and explore new frontiers of importance to development of EHS professionals.

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- The Member Services Steering Committee, which guides development and production of leading-edge products and services that provide professional, personal and academic value to the membership.

The AR has established member-led interest groups, creating forums to address issues of common importance to members. These groups include the following:

- Auditor Resources Interest Group - develops and maintains audit tools, evaluates technologies, risk assessment methods, and other resources that facilitate the auditor's tasks, to assist auditors in conducting more efficient and effective audits. Examples of topics addressed by these resources include: Pre-Acquisition Risk Assessments; Property Assessments; Post-Audit Assessments; Audit Site Prioritization; Assessments of waste disposers; and Toll Manufacturer Assessments
- Health & Safety Interest Group - focuses on health and safety auditing issues and providing members with direction, planning, and support for the integration of health and safety auditing into



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- Legislative & Regulatory Interest Group - monitors significant national and regional-level legislative/regulatory issues important to EHS auditing, including management systems and standards, and informs Roundtable membership of developments
- Sustainability/Management Systems Interest Group - provides a forum for Roundtable members to examine and discuss emerging developments in the application of corporate sustainability and EHS management systems to the auditing profession. Participants have the opportunity to hear from subject matter experts on sustainability and EHS management systems principles, international consensus standards, corporate implementation case studies, and auditing/verification practices.
- The Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change Interest Group- provides our members a source of information on the elements of this complex and rapidly changing subject. We intend to expand everyone's knowledge base and explore emerging developments in state, regional, national and international areas. The intent is to afford a greater level of comfort to our members in their work with standards, inventories and verification through regular electronic conferencing, e-mail exchanges, and sessions at Auditing Roundtable Group meetings. Longer-range goals include preparing members and attendees for understanding and participation in policy debates and questions of auditor certification.

Regional groups serve regional area participants to foster opportunities for networking, information sharing, and benchmarking. The regional groups often use the roundtable format to foster grass roots-level discussions on issues of local or regional interest.

## Training

To help EHS auditors develop their knowledge of E/HS auditing practice the Auditing Roundtable develops and provides a suite of EHS auditor training courses with a long term objective of enhancing the professional practice of auditing and verification activities in the marketplace. The EHS auditor training is designed to reach a wide audience of interested individuals. It is intended to provide participants with the fundamental principles, skills, procedures, techniques and EHS regulatory knowledge necessary to conduct EHS audits properly.

## Establish Auditing Standards and Certification Programs

Auditing standards and auditor certification are essential components of the EHS auditing profession. To establish EHS auditing standards and auditor certification programs, in 1997 the Auditing Roundtable partnered with the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) to create the Board of Environmental, Health & Safety Auditor Certifications (BEAC).

The BEAC's primary missions are the development and administration of generally accepted EHS auditing standards and professional EHS auditor certification programs.

Pursuant to these missions, the BEAC has created certification programs and the Certified Professional Environmental Auditor (CPEA™) professional designation. BEAC develops and publishes EHS auditing professional standards to: establish common understanding of the role and responsibilities of EHS auditing, establish the basis for guidance and measurement of EHS auditing performance, and improve the practice and advance the profession of EHS auditing.