

Glossary of Terms

Audits, Assessments, and Reviews

Each term below is defined two ways: the formal meaning used in professional standards, and the everyday meaning you're likely to hear used casually in casino operations. Knowing both helps you translate between the two.

Core Concepts

Assurance

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* The level of confidence an engagement is designed to provide about the subject matter, based on the nature and extent of evidence gathered.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* How sure can we be, based on how hard we looked?

Evidence

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* Information gathered and evaluated to support a conclusion — documents, observations, confirmations, test results, and analytical data.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* The proof behind the conclusion, not just someone's word for it.

Scope

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* The boundaries of an engagement — what is and is not covered, including time period, locations, processes, or transactions examined.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* What's actually being looked at, and what isn't.

Criteria

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* The defined standard, requirement, or benchmark that the subject matter is measured against.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* The rulebook you're comparing reality to.

The Four Engagement Types

Audit

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* An engagement designed to test compliance with defined criteria through sufficient, appropriate evidence — including sampling, observation, inspection, and reperformance — to support a defensible conclusion.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* A deep, evidence-based check to see if the rules are actually being followed.

Assessment

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* A risk-based, diagnostic engagement designed to identify vulnerabilities, inefficiencies, and opportunities for improvement, using procedures such as interviews, process mapping, and data analysis.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* A broad look at where things could go wrong or could work better.

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Review

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* A limited-scope engagement using inquiry and analytical procedures to identify inconsistencies or areas of concern, without the level of evidence needed to conclude on ongoing control effectiveness.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* A quick check to see if something looks off.

Investigation

- *Formal (CPA/standards) meaning:* A distinct engagement conducted in response to a specific, credible allegation of fraud, theft, or intentional wrongdoing, using specialized procedures to substantiate or refute the allegation.
- *Plain-English / on-the-floor meaning:* Looking into a specific accusation that something bad happened.