

Paper-17 - Cost Audit & Operational Audit

Time allowed-3hrs

Full Marks: 100

Working Notes should form part of the answer.

“Wherever necessary, suitable assumptions should be made and indicated in answer by the candidates.”

SECTION I (50 Marks)

(Cost Audit)

Answer Question No. 1 (carrying 14 marks) which is compulsory and answer any two (carrying 18 marks each) from the rest in this Section.

(1) (a) Choose the most correct answer among four alternative statements: [8×1=8]

- (i) Every cost auditor appointed as such shall continue in such capacity till the expiry of one hundred and eighty days from the closure of the financial year or till he submits the cost audit report, for the financial year for which he has been appointed.
- (ii) Para 2 of Part B of Cost Audit Report is for Abridge Cost Statement.
- (iii) Gross sales include all items of income considered for “Revenue from Operations” net of sales returns.
- (iv) Net Sales means Gross revenue from operations of company minus Excise Duty recovered.
- (v) Every cost auditor shall forward his report to the Board of Directors of the company within a period of one hundred and eighty days from the closure of the financial year to which the report relates and the Board of directors shall consider and examine such report particularly any reservation or qualification contained therein.

(b) State whether following statements are “True” or “False”. Reasons or justification is needed for the answer. [6×1=6]

(i) Whether Value Addition and Distribution of Earnings [Part D, Para 3] is to be computed based on Cost record data?

Answer:

False. Value Addition statement is to be computed based on audited financial accounts.

(ii) Whether Financial Position and Ratio Analysis [Part D, Para 4] is to be computed based on Cost record data?

Answer:

False. Financial Position and Ratio Analysis is to be computed based on audited financial accounts.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

(iii) Under Part D, Para 6 of the Cost Audit Report, the Cost Auditor gives Reconciliation of only 2 years.

Answer:

False — The Cost Auditor gives Reconciliation of only the Current Year.

(iv) All petroleum products are covered under Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules, 2014?

Answer:

True. The Companies (Cost Records and Audit) Rules, 2014 is applicable to all *Petroleum products regulated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 and covered under CETA* Heading no. 2709 to 2715.

(v) Export Benefits are to be considered as a part of other operating income.

Answer:

False. Export Benefit is to be considered as a part of sales.

(vi) Cost Accountant in employment can be a Cost Auditor?

Answer:

False. No person in employment can be appointed as a cost auditor.

(2)(a) What are the steps to be taken by the cost auditor to ensure proper maintenance of cost records? (12 Marks)

Answer:

The following steps can be taken to ensure proper maintenance of cost records:

- (1) Study and examine the chart of accounts with special reference to the system of cost methods adopted by the company.
- (2) Study the basic raw materials and packing materials, chemicals and stores required for the manufacture of the product and their sources.
- (3) Study the organizational structure and know the details of manufacturing process.
- (4) Examine whether cost centres are split-up into production & services functions
- (5) The licensed capacity and installed capacity should be ascertained. Any addition to production capacity during the preceding two years should also be ascertained. It is to be noted that though the reporting in cost audit report is required to be done at a Product Group level, licensed capacity and installed capacity would continue to be ascertained machine wise as it is not feasible to ascertain such capacities at product/product group level.
- (6) Examine the adequacy of internal checks and control.
- (7) Before starting the assignment, meet the various important executives of the company and note down the functions, responsibilities and powers delegated to each.
- (8) Obtain an understanding of the business and the production processes involved, the flow of the process, till the finished goods are packed and transferred to the finished stores for despatch.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

- (9) Obtain the Balance Sheets of the company for the past two years and make a note of the important points contained in the Directors' Report to the shareholders on the various financial, operation and technical matters.
- (10) Study the books/records containing production records etc., statistics maintained by the factory(s) in compliance with the Excise and other Government requirements and note down the Licensed and Installed capacities. Ascertain the reasons for shortfall in production, if any, as compared to the previous two years.
- (11) Compare actual production with the installed capacity.
- (12) Prepare a complete quantitative analysis beginning with input materials (both direct and indirect), corresponding production at each stage of production, any by-product or joint products produced, scrap and wastages generated, quantity transferred for captive consumption and the stage from which such transfer is taking place and final reconciliation with that of sales and stocks in respect of each type of product.
- (13) Study the Cost Accounting System followed by the company. Examine whether the same system is followed in case the Company is engaged in production of different and varied types of products manufactured at different locations and such locations are operating under different autonomous Divisions under the overall management of the Company.
- (14) Make proper identification of various production and service cost centres and check whether the expenditure is initially booked to these cost centres correctly.
- (15) Check whether the relevant cost accounting standards and generally accepted cost accounting principles (GACAP) are being followed for valuation of materials, utilities, overheads etc.
- (16) It is necessary to prepare individual service/utilities cost statements, viz., Water, Steam, Power, DM Water, Purified Air etc. Ensure consumption records of these utilities at various production and service centres properly maintained and allocate the costs on an equitable basis to the various consuming cost centres. In respect of supplies made to or received from other units of the company, ensure that the transfers are made at cost of production/generation of the utilities and that the method followed is consistent. In case of inter unit transfers at pre-determined transfer price in financial accounts, the same has to be reversed for cost accounts and considered at cost.
- (17) Ascertain any abnormal reasons for low productions and/or high usage of services/ utilities and high down time in the plant. Find out whether these have been properly recorded and reported separately.
- (18) Verify whether consistency is maintained with regard to cost accumulation, cost analysis, cost allocation and apportionment, cost treatment and costing procedures adopted for inventory valuation from period to period.
- (19) Examine the records maintained for inter--company transfers.
- (20) Ascertain if any Royalty/Technical Services Fee has been paid to Collaborator/Technology Supplier. If it is one-time lump sum payment, check whether the charge to cost of product is spread over the period for which benefit is to be derived out of the payment and the same is equitable and reasonable.
- (21) Examine whether there is any Royalty agreement and check its effect on cost of production and allocation of the cost to the product.
- (22) Examine the practice followed for maintaining quality of the product and related Quality Control Expenses. Check the amount incurred on quality control, quality audit etc. and their treatment in the cost of product.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

- (23) Examine whether the company is complying with the various legal provisions with respect to pollution control and the expenses incurred therefor and whether absorption of such cost in the product is done equitably and consistently.
- (24) Cost of production should be derived for domestic sale and export sale separately.
- (25) Verify the reconciliation statement between the profit/loss as per the cost accounts and as per the financial accounts. Also examine the variations and reasons thereof.
- (26) Examine whether the data maintained in the cost record are reconciled with the relevant returns submitted by the company to government authorities.
- (27) Where a system of standard costing is used, it should be ensured that such costs are converted into actual for the purpose of determining the figures required to comply with the requirements of Cost Accounting Record Rules. The method of adjustment of variances to arrive at the actual cost from the standard cost should be examined.
- (28) Examine that cost statements have been prepared as per requirements of Cost Accounting Records Rules.
- (29) Examine whether Cost Accounting Standards and Generally Accepted Cost Accounting Principles issued by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India are being followed.
- (30) Examine whether there are any abnormal features affecting production during the year, e.g., strikes, lock-outs, major breakdowns in the plant, substantial power cuts, serious accidents, etc., and what is their impact on the cost of production.
- (31) Examine if there are any special expenses, which have been directly allocated to products under reference, and what is the total amount as also the incidence per unit of product.

(b) As a cost accountant of a manufacturing company, how would you deal with over and under absorption of overhead? (6 Marks)

Answer:

Treatment of Over and Under Absorption

The accounting treatment of over or under absorption depends upon the quantum of over or under absorption and the circumstances leading to it. The following are the main methods of dealing with over or under absorption:

1. Use of Supplementary Rate:

In case there is significant over or under absorption due to anticipations about overhead costs or the base not coming true, supplementary rate may be used. In this case the mismatch between anticipations and actuals arises due to normal errors in business planning and not due to abnormal factors. Computation of supplementary rates is nothing but a process of correction whereby an over absorption is brought down and under absorption is pushed up to the correct figure of actual overhead cost. Accordingly there are two types of absorption rates:

- (a) Positive supplementary rate, and
- (b) Negative supplementary rate.

$$\text{Positive Supplementary Rate (in case of under absorption)} = \frac{\text{Actual overheads} - \text{Absorbed Overheads}}{\text{Actual base}}$$

$$\text{Negative Supplementary Rate (in case of over absorption) =} \\ \frac{\text{Absorbed Overheads - Actual Overheads}}{\text{Actual base}}$$

Under absorption is corrected by using positive supplementary rate, i.e., the unrecovered amount of overhead cost is added to the cost of sales, work-in-progress and unsold stock by applying supplementary rate to the base units contained in these three items of output.

Over absorption is corrected by using negative supplementary rate, i.e., the excess recovery of overhead cost is deducted from the cost of sales, work-in-progress and unsold stock by applying supplementary rate to the base units contained in these three items of output.

Supplementary rates are applied at the end of a budget period. Adjustments for over absorption are shown in the balance sheet by way of deduction in value of work-in progress and finished stock and by deducting it from the value of cost of sales in trading and profit and loss account. Simultaneously profit figure is adjusted upward by the total value of over absorption. Under absorption is adjusted in the balance sheet by an addition to the value of work-in-progress and finished stock and by adding it to the value of cost of sales in trading and profit and loss account. Simultaneously profit figure is adjusted downward by the total value of under absorption.

In case it has been decided that the values of cost of sales, work-in-progress and finished stocks are not to be affected by unanticipated changes in overhead costs and the base adopted for its absorption, supplementary rates are not used.

2. Carry Over of Overheads:

In the following circumstances over and under absorption of overheads may be transferred to Overhead Reserve Account and carried forward to the next year in the hope that an over absorption in the current period will be more or less neutralised by under absorption in the next period:

- (a) In case of seasonal industries over absorption of one season may be carried forward to the next season for neutralisation over a period of one year.
- (b) In case of cyclical businesses over absorption of one year may be carried forward to the next year in the hope that over and under absorption will neutralised each other over a period of one business cycle.
- (c) In case of new projects, under absorption of initial years may be carried forward in the hope of neutralization later when the project gets well established.

The criticism against this method is that overheads of a particular period are not charged to that period entirely. Such carry-over of overheads adversely affects inter-temporal comparisons which may hinder managerial planning and control.

3. Transfer to Costing Profit and Loss Account:

In the following two cases the amount of over or under absorption of overheads should be credited or debited to Costing Profit and Loss Account:

- (i) In case over or under absorption is of relatively very small value, it may be totally unnecessary to adjust value of cost of sales, work-in-progress and finished stock by such insignificant amount.
- (ii) In case over or under absorption arises due to abnormal factors, e.g., heavy machine breakdown, fire, strikes, lock outs, acute depression resulting in low output and capacity utilisation, etc., it should be transferred to Costing Profit & Loss A/c.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

The reasons are : (a) the basic costing principle is that cost of output must not be affected by abnormal gains and losses ; (b) Charging under absorption to output under these circumstances will be wrong from the point of view of business policy and strategy ; and (c) it will also distort cost comparisons and cost control.

(3)(a) Discuss the basis of apportionment for primary distribution of overhead. (9 Marks)

Answer:

Basis of Apportionment for Primary Distribution of Overhead

Each overhead cost is to be apportioned to all departments, both production and service departments, or other cost centres on an appropriate basis. The basis to be considered appropriate or suitable should satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) The overhead cost to be incurred should be measurable by the basis adopted.
- (ii) For achieving the above, there should be some relationship between the overhead cost and the basis.
- (iii) The basis should be practicable,
- (iv) The cost of apportionment should be reasonable.

The process of initial distribution to production and service departments is known as Primary Distribution. The following are the common bases for apportionment of production overheads:

1. **Direct Allocation:** Overheads exclusively pertaining to a department are charged to that department, e.g., salary of departmental manager, power when the department has separate power meter.
2. **Direct Material:** Cost of indirect materials and miscellaneous expenses if direct material cost is a dominant element in total cost, may be apportioned in the ratio of direct material cost incurred in different departments.
3. **Direct Labour/Wages:** Employer's contribution to employees provident fund or employee insurance or workmen compensation costs may be distributed in the ratio of direct labour cost of various departments. In case direct labour cost is a major element in total cost, miscellaneous expenses may also be apportioned on this basis.
4. **Number of Workers:** Supervision cost, Vanteen subsidy and other employee welfare expenses may be apportioned in the ratio of number of employees working in different departments.
5. **Direct Labour Hours:** In case production is labour intensive and no other specific appropriate base is available for apportioning an overhead cost, direct labour hour is the most suitable basis.
6. **Machine Hours:** In case production process is mechanised and no other specific appropriate base is available for apportioning a particular overhead, machine hours is the most suitable basis.
7. **Floor Area Overheads:** such as, rent, rates and taxes on building, building repair and maintenance, lighting, heating and air-conditioning may be apportioned in the ratio of effective floor area of different departments.
8. **Light Points Cost-** of lighting may be distributed on the basis of number of light points in different departments.
9. **Value of Assets:** In case depreciation is considered as fixed cost, it may be charged to different departments in the ratio of capital value of plant and machinery' in departments. Repair and maintenance of plant and machinery is also to be distributed on this basis.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

10. **Value of Machines x Hours Worked**- In case depreciation is treated as variable cost then it should be distributed in the ratio of ' Value of plant and machinery × Hours worked ' in different department. For example if department A has plant worth ₹ 10,00,000 and works for 10 hours per day and Department B has plant worth ₹ 20,00,000 and works for 8 hours daily, the ratio for distributing depreciation cost should be $10,00,000 \times 10 : 20,00,000 \times 8$, i.e., 10:16.
11. **Horse Power**: Cost of power is charged to different cost centres in the ratio of horse power of plant and machinery installed.
12. **Horse Power × Hours Worked**: In case different departments have worked for different number of hours, the power cost may be distributed to these departments in the ratio of horse power x hours worked'.
13. **Number of Material Requisitions**: Overhead costs on account of stores and material handling may be apportioned in the ratio of number of material requisitions by departments.
14. **Hours Worked**: Crane expenses may be charged to different departments on the basis of number of hours it had worked in different departments. In the same way supervisor's salary may be distributed in the ratio of number of hours he worked in departments, provided such information is available.
15. **Technical Estimates**: In case an appropriate basis is not available for apportioning certain overheads, the distribution is done on the basis of technical estimate regarding the share of overhead cost chargeable to different departments.

(b) What are the eligibility criteria for appointment as a cost auditor?

(9Marks)

Answer:

Eligibility Criteria under Section 141 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014 and Section 148 of the Companies Act, 2013. The following persons are not eligible for appointment as a cost auditor:

- a) A body corporate. However, a Limited Liability partnership registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 can be appointed. [Section 141(3)(a)].
- b) An officer or employee of the company. [Section 141(3)(b)].
- c) A person who is a partner, or who is in the employment, of an officer or employee of the company. [Section 141(3)(c)].
- d) A person who, or his relative or partner is holding any security of or interest in the company or any of its subsidiary or of its holding or associate company or a subsidiary of such holding company. [Section 141(3)(d)(i)].
- e) Relatives of any partner of the firm holding any security of or interest in the company of face value exceeding ₹ 1 lakh. [Section 141(3)(d)(i) and Rule 10(1) of Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014].
- f) A person who is indebted to the company or its subsidiary, or its holding or associate company or a subsidiary or such holding company, for an amount exceeding ₹ 5 lakhs. [Section 141(3)(d)(ii) and Rule 10(2) of Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014].

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

- g) A person who has given any guarantee or provided any security in connection with the indebtedness of any third person to the company or its subsidiary, or its holding or associate company or a subsidiary of such holding company, for an amount exceeding ₹ 1 lakh. [Section 141(3)(d)(iii) and Rule 10(3) of Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014].
- h) A person or a firm who, whether directly or indirectly, has business relationship with the company or its subsidiary, or its holding or associate company or subsidiary of such holding company or associate company. [Section 141(3)(e) and Rule 10(4) of Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014].
“Business Relationship” is defined in Rule 10(4) of Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014 and the same shall be construed as any transaction entered into for a commercial purpose, except commercial transactions which are in the nature of professional services permitted to be rendered by a cost auditor or a cost audit firm under the Act and commercial transactions which are in the ordinary course of business of the company at arm's length price - like sale of products or services to the cost auditor, as customer, in the ordinary course of business, by companies engaged in the business of telecommunications, airlines, hospitals, hotels and such other similar businesses.
- i) A person whose relative is a director or is in the employment of the company as a director or key managerial personnel of the company. [Section 141(3)(f)].
- j) A person who is in the full time employment elsewhere or a person or a partner of a firm holding appointment as its auditor if such person or persons is at the date of such appointment or reappointment holding appointment as auditor of more than twenty companies. [Section 141(3)(g)].
- k) A person who has been convicted by a court for an offence involving fraud and a period of ten years has not elapsed from the date of such conviction. [Section 141(3)(h)].
- l) Any person whose subsidiary or associate company or any other form of entity, is engaged as on date of appointment in consulting and providing specialised services to the company and its subsidiary companies: [Section 141(3)(i) and Section 144].
- (a) accounting and book keeping services
 - (b) internal audit
 - (c) design and implementation of any financial information system
 - (d) actuarial services
 - (e) investment advisory services
 - (f) investment banking services
 - (g) rendering of outsourced financial services
 - (h) management services

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

(4)(a) Is a cost auditor of a company required to audit and certify monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly cost statements? (3 marks)

Answer:

As per Rule 5, every company under these rules including all units and branches thereof are required, in respect of each of its financial year, to maintain cost records in form CRA-1. The cost records are required to be maintained on regular basis in such manner so as to facilitate calculation of per unit cost of production or cost of operations, cost of sales and margin for each of its products and activities for every financial year on monthly or quarterly or half-yearly or annual basis. The cost auditor is appointed to conduct audit of the cost records and make report thereon for the financial year for which he is appointed. It is not incumbent upon the cost auditor to certify monthly, quarterly, half-yearly cost statements.

(b) What are the benefits of cost information as per the expert committee of India? (6 Marks)

Answer:

The Expert committee formed by the Government of India to study the Cost Audit scenario in the country, highlighted the following benefits of cost information:

- (i) Cost Information enables the organization to structure the cost, understand it and use it for communicating with the stakeholders.
- (ii) Costing is an important tool in assessing organizational performance in terms of shareholder and stakeholder value. It informs how profits and value are created, and how efficiently and effectively operational processes transform input into output. It contributes to the data input on economy level parameters like resources efficiency, waste management, resources allocation policies etc.
- (iii) Costing includes product, process, and resource-related information covering the functions of the organization and its value chain. Costing information can be used to appraise actual performance in the context of implemented strategies.
- (iv) Good practice in costing should support a range of both regular and non-routine decisions when designing products and services to
 - meet customer expectations and profitability targets;
 - assist in continuous improvements in resources utilisation; and
 - guide product mix and investment decisions.
- (v) Working from a common data source (or a single set of sources) also helps to ensure that output reports for different audiences are reconcilable with each other.
- (vi) Integrating databases and information systems can help to provide useful costing information more efficiently as well as reducing source data manipulation.

(c) As an cost auditor of a company, how would you deals with the following issues –

- i. Valuation of Stock of work-in-progress and finished goods;**
- ii. Treatment of Joint Products and By-Products;**
- iii. Treatment of Scrap and Waste.**

(3×3 = 9)

Answer:

i. Valuation of Stock of work-in-progress and finished goods

Stock of work-in-progress shall be valued at cost on the basis of stages of completion as per the cost accounting principles. Similarly, stock of finished goods shall be valued at cost. Opening and closing stock of work-in-progress shall be adjusted for calculation of cost of goods produced and similarly opening and closing stock of finished goods shall be adjusted for calculation of goods dispatched.

For determining the cost of production for captive consumption, adjustment for opening and closing stock of work-in-progress shall be made. The valuation of opening stock and closing stock of WIP is valued at cost on the basis of stages of completion. Similarly for calculation of cost of finished goods dispatched, adjustment for opening and closing stock of finished goods, if any, is to be made. In case the cost of a shorter period is to be determined, where the figures of opening and closing stock are not readily available, the adjustment of figures of opening and closing stock may be ignored.

Adjustment of opening and closing stock of WIP/finished goods will arise only when the cost of production is to be determined for historical cost and due consideration shall be given for above adjustment in determining the cost of production. However, if cost of production is to be determined for a future period, it will be based on projected cost and projected capacity utilisation. In such cases, adjustment of opening and closing WIP/finished goods and valuation thereof does not arise.

ii. Treatment of Joint Products and By-Products

In case joint products are produced, joint costs are allocated between the products on a rational and consistent basis. In case by-products are produced, the net realisable value of by-products is credited to the cost of production of the main product.

For allocation of joint cost to joint products, the sales values of products at the split off point i.e. when the products become separately identifiable may be the basis. It may be allocated based on a measure of the number of units, weight or volume. Some other basis may be adopted. For example, in case of petroleum products, each product is assigned certain value based on its certain properties, may be calorific value and these values become the basis of apportionment of joint cost among petroleum products.

The joint cost shall be allocated to the cost of production of Joint Products as per the generally accepted cost accounting principles.

By-product:

It is difficult to determine the cost of by-product. By products are sold:

- (1) Either in original form without further processing; or
- (2) or processed in order to be saleable. In such case, the main product is credited with the sale realization (gross/net) as the case may be. In other words expenses incurred to bring by-product to marketable conditions shall be adjusted from the sale of by product and net realizable value of by-product shall be credited to cost of production of main product.

In case sale realization is not available, credit to main product at substitute value of by product may be given.

iii. Treatment of Scrap and Waste

The production process may generate scrap or waste. Realized or realizable value of scrap or waste shall be credited to the cost of production.

In case, scrap or waste does not have ready market and it is used for reprocessing, the scrap or waste value shall be taken at a rate of input cost depending upon the stage at which such scrap or waste is recycled. The expenses incurred for making the scrap suitable for reprocessing shall be deducted from value of scrap or waste.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

SECTION II (50 Marks) (Operational Audit)

Answer Question No. 5 (carrying 14 marks) which is compulsory and answer any two (carrying 18 marks each) from the rest in this Section.

5.(a) Fill in the blanks in the following sentences by using appropriate word(s)/phrase(s) :

[8×1=8]

- (i) An operational audit process is the series of steps an auditor takes to evaluate the operational activities of a given company or other organization.
- (ii) During pre-audit, the auditor meets with managers, explains the audit process and gathers basic information about the company to determine concerns and risks.
- (iii) Operational audit is a systematic process involving logical, structured and organized series of procedures.
- (iv) Operational audit is not different from Internal audit.
- (v) FSN analysis is technique used in inventory control.
- (vi) operational audit is also termed as micro level management audit.
- (vii) The concept of Management Audit was developed by T. G. Rose.
- (viii) Enterprise Resource Planning integrates all facets of the business, including planning, purchasing, manufacturing, sales and marketing etc., which are sometimes located at different geographic locations.

(b) State whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE with justification for your answer. No credit will be given for merely answering TRUE or FALSE — without giving any justification/reasoning:

[6×1=6]

(i) Audit of Human Resource Development is outside the scope of Management Audit.

Answer :

False – The scope of management audit extends over all the functions of an organization viz. management, personnel, administration etc. So the audit of human resource development is not outside the scope of management audit.

(ii) Management Audit imposes barriers in executive decision making.

Answer:

False – Management Audit does not impose barriers in executive decision making, it appraise the management performance at all the levels and helps to spotlight the decision or activities, that are not in conformity with organisational objectives.

(iii) Management Audit Report is presented to the management.

Answer:

True - Management Audit Report is to be submitted to the Management of the concern.

(iv) Operational audit is a part of Internal Control.

Answer:

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

False. Operational audit is not a part of Internal Control. This is over and above the regular internal control system.

(v) The main function of the operational audit is to safeguard the assets of the enterprise.

Answer:

False. The main function of the operational audit is to provide suggestions for improvement.

(vi) Operational Audit's focus is on effectiveness of management decisions and actions.

Answer:

False. Operational Audit's focus is on efficiency and economy in operations.

(6)(a) As a management consultant, you have an assignment to conduct a Management Audit of the production function of a medium-scale engineering unit. Prepare a check list of the points on which you should undertake the study. (10 Marks)

Answer:

Checklist for carrying out management audit of production function in a medium sized engineering unit:

1. How is the production plan prepared? Is it based entirely on market forecasts, or does it also take into account limitations of materials, personnel and finance?
2. Are the product-mix decisions based on optimum profitability? What is the proportion of standard products and tailor-made items?
3. Whether all infrastructure like machinery, materials, manpower and money have been assured at the scheduled time for uninterrupted production.
4. Are there any constraints in achieving maximum capacity utilization? Are there any imbalances in the plant? If so, what steps are being contemplated to set right the imbalance?
5. Is it possible to subcontract some jobs to increase production capacity or maintain production in times of power-cuts etc.?
6. What is the percentage of scrap, waste and rejects? Is it reasonable?
7. Is the idle time being monitored regularly? Is it being analysed reason-wise? How much of it is due to machinery breakdown which is controllable by production department?
8. Is there excess or shortage of manpower? How is the control exercised – time & motion study, incentives, labour budgets or any other means?
9. Is there any wastage in consumption of utilities like power, fuel, steam, compressed air, etc.?
10. How effective is the material handling system? Are there any avoidable movements of materials?
11. What is the system for preventive maintenance? If the in-house maintenance capability is not adequate, are there annual maintenance contracts for all important items of plant and machinery?
12. How is the control exercised on inventory of stores and spares?

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

13. What is the procedure to handle breakdown emergencies?
14. Are all statutory requirements in regard to safety measures complied with?
15. Are history cards available for all plant and machinery giving details of downtime, replacement of parts, etc?
16. Does the system provide for flexibility or change of production schedules to execute urgent orders or changes in the product mix?

(b) Analytical procedure is a pre-requisite procedure for an audit. Comments (4 Marks)

Answer:

Analytical Procedure (SIA 6):

- i. To apply analytical procedures as the risk assessment procedures at the planning and overall review stages of internal audit.
- ii. Analytical procedures are analysis of significant ratios and trends including resulting investigation of fluctuations and relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or which deviate from predicted amounts.
- iii. Factors to be considered for analytical procedures are significance of the area being examined, adequacy of the system of internal control, availability and reliability of financial and non-financial information, the precision with which results of analytical procedures can be predicted, availability and comparability of information regarding the industry in which the organization operates, the extent to which other auditing procedures provide support for audit results. After evaluating the aforementioned factors, internal auditor should consider and use additional auditing procedures, as necessary, to achieve the audit objective.
- iv. To apply analytical procedures at or near the end of internal audit when forming an overall conclusion as to whether the systems, processes and controls as a whole are robust, operating effectively and are consistent with the internal auditor's knowledge of the business.
- v. When analytical procedures identify significant fluctuations or relationships that are inconsistent with other relevant information or that deviate from predicted amounts, the auditor should investigate and obtain adequate explanations and appropriate corroborative evidence.

(c) What are the areas need to be examined by the management auditor of the company to evaluate the adequacy of Budgetary Control System? (4 Marks)

Answer:

Adequacy of budgetary control system

While determining the adequacy or otherwise of the budgetary control system of an organisation, it is essential that management auditor should evaluate its coverage and effectiveness i.e., whether the system in operation covers all functions rather than an accounting exercise. For this purpose, he should examine whether the system contributes towards accomplishing the basic task of planning, coordinating and controlling the activities of the organisation in relation to the product under management audit. The management auditor should examine and appraise the following points :-

- (a) In the area of planning:

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

1. Where it covers all interrelated functions like production, sales, purchasing and finance.
 2. Whether it determines the linkage between budget centres and responsibility centres.
 3. Whether it establishes definite goals and limits for these function well in advance. The system must answer the questions such as "what they are expected to operate?" What will be the financial requirement for the functional areas? What would be the potential problems in the key areas?
 4. Whether there are imbalances in the fixation of performance levels of functional budgets in relation to sales budgets.
 5. Whether budget monitoring cell exists for operating the system in right perspective.
- (b) In the area of coordination :
1. Whether the budget monitoring committee holds its meeting regularly with a view to ensure performance evaluation.
 2. Whether it helps to prevent waste that results in duplicate or cross purpose activities.
 3. Whether it reveals timelines in the process of preparation and approval of all functional budgets and master budget.
- (c) In the area of control:
1. Whether system exists for measuring, comparing and quantifying the results of all functional areas.
 2. Whether the budget incorporates a degree of flexibility with a provision of its periodical review.
 3. Whether the variance reports are issued in time and appropriate corrective action is taken on these variances.

(7)(a) Explain the objects of Management Audit?

(3 Marks)

Answer:

Objects of Management Audit

The main objectives of management audit can be summarized as follows:-

- (i) to ensure optimum utilization on all the resource employed, including money, materials, machines, men and methods;
- (ii) to highlight efficiencies in objectives, policies, procedures and planning;
- (iii) to suggest improvement in methods of operations;
- (iv) to highlight weak links in organizational structure and in internal control systems, and suggest necessary improvements;
- (v) to help management by providing health indicators and help prevent sickness or help cure in case of sickness; and
- (vi) to anticipate problems and suggest remedies to solve them in time.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

(b) How can an internal control system with regard to sales return and purchase return be designed? (5 Marks)

Answer:

Internal control systems with regard to sales return and purchase return are as follows:

Sales return —

An internal control/internal check system should provide for authorization of goods returned by customers and the processing of claims. The system should operate at the following points :

- (i) Authorising returns - The authority to grant returns is a matter of management policy. For example, a company may fix limits on authority of officials to accept returns in terms of value of goods returned.
- (ii) Receiving and accepting goods- Receipt of goods returned is handled by the receiving department. It should inspect the goods for their quality and quantity and prepare an inspection report. It also prepares pre-numbered inward return note and sends a copy of it to the clerk maintaining inventory records and another to the person responsible for making and issuing credit notes.
- (iii) Authorising credits - A responsible official of the company may be authorised to issue a pre-numbered credit note to the customer. He should give authorisation on the basis of copy of inward return note and on the basis of inspection report of the receiving department. One copy of credit note should be sent to the clerk maintaining accounts receivable ledger and other to the clerk handling sales return book to enable them to update their records.

Purchase returns —

An internal control/check system with regards to purchase returns should operate at following points :

- (i) Authorising returns - The power to authorise purchase returns is, generally, vested with an official of receiving department or purchase department and is a matter of management policy.
- (ii) Preparing advice note for returns - The receiving department which inspects such goods, should prepare an advice note to be sent to the finance department mentioning the details of goods to be returned. Notification copies are also sent to stores and despatch department.
- (iii) Preparing outward return notes - The stores department issues goods to be returned to the despatch department on authorisation of advice note. It should prepare a statement for all such returns. The despatch department prepares prenumbered goods outward return notes for such returns and arranges for their transportation and follow control procedures similar to those in case of sales transactions. It also sends a copy of outward return note to the finance department.
- (iv) Preparing debit note and authorising debits - The accounts department examines the advice note with original invoice and outward return notes. A numerically controlled debit note is prepared and sent to the supplier. One copy of debit note is sent to the clerk maintaining purchase return book and other to the clerk handling accounts payable ledger. After obtaining a credit note to that effect from the supplier, payment to him is adjusted accordingly.

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

(c) What are the factors need to be considered while designing an internal control system?

(10 Marks)

Answer:

While designing an internal control system, the following factors must be considered to ensure greater chances of successful internal control system.

➤ **Segregation and Rotation of duties:** It is very necessary for successful internal control system that no one person handles the complete transaction i.e., those who physically handle assets are not those who record the asset movements also. The systems are so designed that no single individual is responsible for all the stages involved in a transaction i.e., duties are allocated in such a way that no single individual has an exclusive control over any one transaction or a group of transactions. Similarly, the people responsible for authorizing these transactions or reconciling of the records should also be different i.e., the work done by one person is either complementary to the work done by other person or the accuracy or correctness of work done by one person is independently checked by another person. The broad functions which are generally segregated are:

- (a) Execution of transactions;
- (b) Authorization of transactions;
- (c) Maintenance of records and documents; and
- (d) Physical custody of related assets.

Apart from segregation of duties, it is sometimes considered more desirable to rotate the duties of various officers and staff in an attempt to ensure that a fraud or error, if any may not remain undetected for a very long time. It also ensures that a person does not develop a vested interest by holding to a post for a very long time. In addition, it removes the impression of indispensability about an employee. This also ensures that the job profile of each post is well defined because employees can be rotated only if the content of each respective job is well defined.

- **Competence and integrity of people:** Internal control systems are not an end to themselves unless these systems are manned by the competent people, who are honest enough to consistently do so. The controls to be successful and effective necessitate the need for competent people to enforce such controls. In other words, the presence of detailed procedures may have no meaning unless these procedures are carried by the competent people, who can also envisage the changes required in the system over a period of time.
- **Appropriate levels of authority.** A common error usually made is to grant too much authority within control boundaries. Sometimes, this is deliberately done to expedite the things or to handle the emergencies. This is sometimes done to reduce the number of people i.e., cost reduction. However, controls to be effective require the authority to be granted on a need-to have basis only. If there is no need for a particular person to have a specific authority, he/she should not be granted such authority.
- **Accountability.** The internal controls to be successful presuppose that there is full accountability for all the decisions taken and there are controls present, which allow the determination with acceptable level of confidence of a person taking particular decision or authorizing particular transaction or took specific action. However, mere presence of these controls may have no meaning or may give a false sense of security unless strict action is taken every time, a discrepancy is noticed. Other-wise these controls may be left with no meaning.
- **Adequate resources.** Controls that are enforced with inadequate resources (manpower, finance, equipment, materials, and methodologies) will generally fail whenever they come

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

under stress. Therefore, it is very necessary that minimum resources necessary to enforce the controls must always be present to enable the controls to be successful and effective.

- **Supervision and periodical updation:** Unfortunately, many people prefer to work only if they are being supervised or watched. It is, therefore very necessary for the controls to be adequately supervised and periodically updated in line with changing environment to be effective and successful. For example, in case of banks, if new service i.e., internet banking is also being started, it is very necessary that internal control system is also updated accordingly.

8 (a). As a management consultant, you have an assignment to conduct a Management Audit of the production function of a medium-scale engineering unit. Prepare a check list of the points on which you should undertake the study. (10 Marks)

Answer:

Checklist for carrying out management audit of production function in a medium sized engineering unit:

1. How is the production plan prepared? Is it based entirely on market forecasts, or does it also take into account limitations of materials, personnel and finance?
2. Are the product-mix decisions based on optimum profitability? What is the proportion of standard products and tailor-made items?
3. Whether all infrastructure like machinery, materials, manpower and money have been assured at the scheduled time for uninterrupted production.
4. Are there any constraints in achieving maximum capacity utilization? Are there any imbalances in the plant? If so, what steps are being contemplated to set right the imbalance?
5. Is it possible to subcontract some jobs to increase production capacity or maintain production in times of power-cuts etc.?
6. What is the percentage of scrap, waste and rejects? Is it reasonable?
7. Is the idle time being monitored regularly? Is it being analysed reason-wise? How much of it is due to machinery breakdown which is controllable by production department?
8. Is there excess or shortage of manpower? How is the control exercised – time & motion study, incentives, labour budgets or any other means?
9. Is there any wastage in consumption of utilities like power, fuel, steam, compressed air, etc.?
10. How effective is the material handling system? Are there any avoidable movements of materials?
11. What is the system for preventive maintenance? If the in-house maintenance capability is not adequate, are there annual maintenance contracts for all important items of plant and machinery?
12. How is the control exercised on inventory of stores and spares?
13. What is the procedure to handle breakdown emergencies?
14. Are all statutory requirements in regard to safety measures complied with?
15. Are history cards available for all plant and machinery giving details of downtime, replacement of parts, etc?

Answer to MTP_Final_Syllabus 2008_Jun2015_Set 1

16. Does the system provide for flexibility or change of production schedules to execute urgent orders or changes in the product mix?

(b) Prepare the checklist of Inventory Control Function.

(8 Marks)

Answer:

Inventory Control Function Checks

- (a) How are maximum and minimum stock controlled?
- (b) What customer service level is required?
- (c) How are these limits determined?
- (d) Within the permitted overall value coverage of stocks, how are permitted quantities of each stock item determined?
- (e) Is the stock of each item definitely related to the production program and the forecasted sales?
- (f) Is stock control also a function of the economic batch quantities?
- (g) How is raw material stock valued for production purposes and for balance sheet purposes?
- (h) How is the issue of stock controlled?
- (i) What are the systems of stock security?
- (j) What are the procedures to be followed when stock is found to be defective in store?
- (k) Who has authority to scrap the stock?
- (l) Who has authority to issue stock at other than the normal prices to production or to customers?
- (m) What control is there on samples?
- (n) Are all stock movements accounted for by any paper work?
- (o) Is there any security check that goods leaving the premises are covered by one or other of the permitted authorizing documents?
- (p) What system is in force for counting the stock to reconcile it with the book values, e.g. continuous stock checking?
- (q) What is the procedure for investigating any discrepancies in stock? Who has authority to consider any investigation closed?
- (r) In the case of discrepancies caused by system deficiencies, what follow up is there to ensure that the systems re improved?
- (s) What procedure is there for writing down the value of stock, say, for obsolescence?
- (t) If material has been issued to the shop floor as work in progress, what facilities are there in the production control system for establishing the point at which any stock deficiencies occur?
- (u) What controls are there on the over looking or work done by operators?