



Insights into IFRS®

An overview

Audit Committee Institute

September 2018

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About the Audit Committee Institute

Sponsored by more than 40 member firms around the world, KPMG's Audit Committee Institutes (ACIs) provide audit committee and board members with practical insights, resources and peer exchange opportunities focused on strengthening oversight of financial reporting and audit quality, and the array of challenges facing boards and businesses today – from risk management and emerging technologies to strategy and global compliance.

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Embedding and explaining the changes

After many years of deliberation and preparation, the new standards on revenue recognition and financial instruments are finally effective! Companies across the globe have worked hard to implement their requirements – now it's time to fully embed the changes and clearly explain their effects to investors and other stakeholders.

Under the new revenue standard, IFRS 15, companies will find that the analysis that needs to be performed and the disclosures required are very different – even if the numbers in their financial statements don't change significantly as a consequence of implementing the new requirements.

As for the new financial instruments standard, IFRS 9... The impairment requirements for banks may steal the limelight, but for corporates more broadly it brings opportunities for more effective hedge accounting, which could produce a more stable earnings environment – no small prize.

As you prepare your 2018 annual financial statements, we would encourage you to embrace the opportunity to think through how best to explain the changes. Remember that the quality and clarity of explanations of changes in accounting policies and their impacts are key. And that investors will be keenly interested in disclosures of key judgements and estimates.

At the same time, keep an eye on IFRS 16. The new leasing standard will be effective before we know it. And finally, let's not forget insurers, who face a major task in preparing for IFRS 17. For many, this will involve an overhaul of their business processes to take advantage of the opportunity to streamline and achieve efficiencies.

With so many moving parts, *Insights into IFRS* provides in-depth guidance across the complete set of standards, including detailed information on existing standards as well as analysis of the new ones. Whether you read it in hard copy or e-book – or both – we hope it will prove a valuable companion as you embed and explain the changes.

This companion guide aims to help Audit Committee members and others by providing a structured guide to the key issues arising from the standards.

Audit Committee Institute
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How to navigate this publication

This guide provides a quick overview of the key requirements of IFRS, for easy reference, and is organised by topic.

This edition is designed for companies with a year end of 31 December 2018. It is based on IFRS in issue at 1 August 2018, and includes standards and interpretations that are effective at that date¹ ('currently effective requirements') and *significant* amendments that are effective in later periods ('forthcoming requirements').

[Appendix I](#) lists new standards or amendments for 2018 and forthcoming requirements, other than minor amendments.

1. IAS 26 *Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans* and the *IFRS for Small and Medium-sized Entities* are excluded.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

Currently effective: IFRS Foundation Constitution, IASB and IFRS Interpretations Committee Due Process Handbook, Preface to IFRSs, IAS 1

IFRS Standards

- IFRS is a set of globally accepted standards for financial reporting applied primarily by listed entities in over 160 countries.
- Individual standards and interpretations are developed and maintained by the IASB and the IFRS Interpretations Committee.
- IFRS is designed for use by profit-oriented entities.

Compliance with IFRS

- Any entity claiming compliance with IFRS complies with all standards and interpretations, including disclosure requirements, and makes an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with IFRS.
- The overriding requirement of IFRS is for the financial statements to give a fair presentation (or a true and fair view).

1.2 The Conceptual Framework

Currently effective: Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting

Purpose

- The Conceptual Framework is a point of reference:
 - for the IASB and the IFRS Interpretations Committee in developing and maintaining standards and interpretations; and
 - for preparers of financial statements in the absence of specific guidance in IFRS.
- The Conceptual Framework does not override any specific IFRS.

Objective of general purpose financial reporting

- The objective of general purpose financial reporting is to provide financial information about the reporting entity that is useful to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors in making decisions about providing resources to the entity.

Qualitative characteristics of useful financial information

- For financial information to be useful, it needs to be relevant to users and faithfully represent what it purports to represent. The usefulness of financial information is enhanced by its comparability, verifiability, timeliness and understandability.

Financial statements and the reporting entity

- The Conceptual Framework sets the objective of financial statements, describes their types and provides the definition of a reporting entity.
- Financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, unless management intends, or has no alternative other than, to liquidate the entity or to stop trading.

The elements of financial statements

- The Conceptual Framework sets out the definitions of 'assets' and 'liabilities'. The definitions of 'equity', 'income' and 'expenses' are derived from the definitions of assets and liabilities.

Recognition and derecognition

- Any item meeting the definition of an asset, a liability, equity, income or expense is recognised in the financial statements, unless it affects the relevance or the faithful representation of the information provided.
- An item is derecognised from the financial statements when it no longer meets the definition of an asset or liability. This is accompanied by appropriate presentation and disclosure.

Measurement

- The Conceptual Framework describes two measurement bases and the factors to consider when selecting a measurement basis.
 - *Historical cost*: Under the historical cost basis, an asset or liability is measured using information derived from the transaction price and that measurement is not changed unless it relates to impairment of an asset or a liability becoming onerous.
 - *Current value*: Under the current value basis, an asset or liability is measured using information that reflects current conditions at the measurement date.
- Current value measurement bases include fair value, value in use and fulfilment value that are based on present values of cash flows, and current cost.

Presentation and disclosure

- The Conceptual Framework includes high-level concepts that describe how information is presented and disclosed in financial statements.
- The Conceptual Framework also outlines principles for the IASB to follow when deciding whether an item of income or expense should be included in profit or loss or other comprehensive income (OCI) and if it should be reclassified from OCI to profit or loss.

2 General issues

2.1 Form and components of financial statements

Currently effective: IFRS 10, IFRS 11, IAS 1, IAS 27, IAS 28

Complete set of financial statements

- A complete set of financial statements comprises the following.
 - A statement of financial position.
 - A statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.
 - A statement of changes in equity.
 - A statement of cash flows.
 - Notes, including accounting policies.
 - Comparative information.
 - A statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period ('third statement of financial position') in certain circumstances.

Reporting date

- The reporting date may change only in exceptional circumstances.

Comparative information

- Comparative information is required for the immediately preceding period only. Additional comparative information may be presented if it is compliant with IFRS; however, it need not comprise a complete set of financial statements.

Types of financial statements

- IFRS sets out the requirements that apply to consolidated, individual and separate financial statements.

Consolidated financial statements

- An entity with one or more subsidiaries presents consolidated financial statements unless it is a qualifying investment entity (see 5.6) or specific exemption criteria are met.

Individual financial statements

- An entity with no subsidiaries but with investments in associates or joint ventures prepares individual financial statements if those investments are accounted for using the equity method, unless specific exemption criteria are met.

Separate financial statements

- A parent, an investor in an associate or a venturer in a joint venture that is not required to prepare consolidated or individual financial statements is permitted, but not required, to present separate financial statements. Alternatively, separate financial statements may be prepared in addition to consolidated or individual financial statements.

Presenting pro forma information

- In our view, it is acceptable to present pro forma information if it is allowed by local regulations and relevant stock exchange rules and if certain criteria are met.

2.2 Changes in equity

Currently effective: IAS 1

General

- A statement of changes in equity (and related notes) reconciles opening to closing amounts for each component of equity.
- All owner-related changes in equity are presented in the statement of changes in equity separately from non-owner changes in equity.

Entities with no equity

- Entities that have no equity as defined in IFRS may need to adopt the financial statement presentation of members' or unit holders' interests.

Changes in accounting policies and errors

- Generally, accounting policy changes and corrections of prior-period errors are made by adjusting opening equity and restating comparatives unless this is impracticable.
- An entity presents separately in the statement of changes in equity:
 - the total adjustment resulting from changes in accounting policies; and
 - the total adjustment resulting from the correction of errors.

2.3 Statement of cash flows

Currently effective: IAS 7

Cash and cash equivalents

- Cash and cash equivalents for the purposes of the statement of cash flows include certain short-term investments and, in some cases, bank overdrafts.

Operating, investing and financing activities

- The statement of cash flows presents cash flows during the period, classified by operating, investing and financing activities.
- An entity presents its cash flows in the manner most appropriate to its business.
- An entity chooses its own policy for classifying each of interest and dividends. It applies the chosen presentation method consistently.
- Taxes paid are classified as operating activities unless it is practicable to identify them with, and therefore classify them as, financing or investing activities.

Direct vs indirect method

- Cash flows from operating activities may be presented under either the direct method or the indirect method.

Foreign currency cash flows

- Foreign currency cash flows are translated at the exchange rates at the dates of the cash flows (or using averages when appropriate).

Offsetting

- Generally, all financing and investing cash flows are reported gross. Cash flows are offset only in limited circumstances.

Changes in liabilities related to financing activities

- To help users evaluate changes in liabilities related to financing activities, an entity provides a disclosure, including cash and non-cash changes.

2.4 Fair value measurement

Currently effective: IFRS 13

Scope

- The standard applies to most fair value measurements and disclosures (including measurements based on fair value) that are required or permitted by other IFRSs.

Fair value principles

- Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date – i.e. an exit price.
- Market participants are independent of each other, they are knowledgeable and have a reasonable understanding of the asset or liability, and they are willing and able to transact.
- Fair value measurement assumes that a transaction takes place in the principal market (i.e. the market with the greatest volume and level of activity) for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

Valuation approaches and techniques

- There are three general approaches to valuation, with various techniques applied under those approaches:
 - the market approach: e.g. quoted prices in an active market;
 - the income approach: e.g. discounted cash flows; and
 - the cost approach: e.g. depreciated replacement cost.

Inputs to valuation techniques

- A fair value hierarchy is established based on the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value.
- A premium or discount (e.g. a control premium) may be an appropriate input to a valuation technique, but only if it is consistent with the relevant unit of account.

Fair value hierarchy

- The inputs are categorised into three levels (Levels 1, 2 and 3), with the highest priority given to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities and the lowest priority given to unobservable inputs.
- Appropriate valuation technique(s) should be used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Measuring fair value

- Fair value on initial recognition generally equals the transaction price.
- Non-financial assets are measured based on their 'highest and best use' – i.e. the use that would maximise the value of the asset (or group of assets) for a market participant.
- In the absence of quoted prices for the transfer of the instrument, a liability or an entity's own equity instrument is valued from the perspective of a market participant that holds the corresponding asset. Failing that, other valuation techniques are used to value the liability or own equity instrument from the perspective of a market participant that owes the liability or has issued the equity instrument.
- The fair value of a liability reflects non-performance risk, which is assumed to be the same before and after the transfer of the liability.
- Certain groups of financial assets and financial liabilities with offsetting market or credit risks may be measured based on the net risk exposure.
- For assets or liabilities with bid and ask prices, an entity uses the price within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value in the circumstances. The use of bid prices for assets and ask prices for liabilities is permitted.
- Guidance is provided on measuring fair value when there has been a decline in the volume or level of activity in a market, and when transactions are not orderly.

Disclosures

- A comprehensive disclosure framework is designed to help users of financial statements assess the valuation techniques and inputs used in fair value measurements, and the effect on profit or loss or other comprehensive income of recurring fair value measurements that are based on significant unobservable inputs.

2.5 Consolidation

Currently effective: IFRS 10

Entities included in consolidated financial statements

- An entity that controls one or more entities presents consolidated financial statements unless it is a qualifying investment entity (see 5.6) or specific exemption criteria are met.
- Venture capital organisations, mutual funds, unit trusts and similar entities that do not qualify as investment entities (see 5.6) are not exempt from the requirements of the standard and their subsidiaries are consolidated.

Single control model

- An investor controls an investee when the investor is exposed to (has rights to) variable returns from its involvement with the investee, and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee. Control involves power, exposure to variability of returns and a linkage between the two.
- Control is assessed on a continuous basis.

Step 1 – Understand the investee

- Control is generally assessed at the level of the legal entity. However, an investor may have control over only specified assets and liabilities of the legal entity (a 'silo'), in which case control is assessed at that level if certain conditions are met.
- The purpose and design of the investee does not in itself determine whether the investor controls the investee. However, it plays a role in the judgement applied by the investor in all areas of the control model. Assessing purpose and design includes considering the risks that the investee was designed to create and to pass on to the parties involved in the transaction, and whether the investor is exposed to some or all of those risks.
- The 'relevant activities' of the investee – i.e. the activities that significantly affect the investee's returns – need to be identified. In addition, the investor determines whether decisions about the relevant activities are made based on voting rights.

Step 2 – Power over relevant activities

- Only substantive rights are considered in assessing whether the investor has power over the relevant activities of the investee.
- If voting rights are relevant for assessing power, then the investor considers potential voting rights that are substantive, rights arising from other contractual arrangements and factors that may indicate de facto power – e.g. the investor has a dominant shareholding and the other vote holders are sufficiently dispersed.
- If voting rights are not relevant for assessing power, then the investor considers evidence of the practical ability to direct the relevant activities (the most important factor), indications of a special relationship with the investee, and the size of the investor's exposure to variable returns from its involvement with the investee.

Step 3 – Exposure to variability in returns

- Returns are broadly defined and include not only direct returns (e.g. dividends, interest and changes in the fair value of an investment), but also indirect returns (e.g. achieving economies of scale, cost savings and other synergies).

Step 4 – Linkage

- If the investor (decision maker) is an agent, then the link between power and returns is absent and the decision maker's delegated power is treated as if it were held by its principal(s).
- To determine whether it is an agent, the decision maker considers:
 - substantive removal and other rights held by a single or multiple parties;
 - whether its remuneration is on arm's length terms;
 - its other economic interests; and
 - the overall relationship between itself and other parties.
- An entity takes into account the rights of parties acting on its behalf in assessing whether it controls an investee.

Subsidiaries' accounting periods and policies

- The difference between the reporting date of a parent and its subsidiary cannot be more than three months. Adjustments are made for the effects of significant transactions and events between the two dates.

- Uniform accounting policies are used throughout the group.

Non-controlling interests

- ‘Ordinary’ non-controlling interests (NCI) are measured at fair value, or at their proportionate interest in the net assets of the acquiree, at the date of acquisition. Ordinary NCI are present ownership interests that entitle their holders to a proportionate share of the entity’s net assets in the event of liquidation. ‘Other’ NCI are generally measured at fair value.
- Losses in a subsidiary may create a debit balance in NCI.
- NCI in the statement of financial position are classified as equity but are presented separately from the parent shareholders’ equity.
- Profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI) for the period are allocated between NCI and the shareholders of the parent.

Intra-group transactions

- Intra-group transactions are eliminated in full.

Loss of control

- On the loss of control of a subsidiary, the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary and the carrying amount of the NCI are derecognised. The consideration received and any retained interest (measured at fair value) are recognised. Amounts recognised in OCI are reclassified as required by other standards. Any resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Changes in ownership interest while retaining control

- Changes in the parent’s ownership interest in a subsidiary without a loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions and no gain or loss is recognised.

Disclosures

- Detailed disclosures are required, including in respect of *unconsolidated* structured entities (see 5.10).

2.6 Business combinations

Currently effective: IFRS 3, IFRS 13

Forthcoming: IFRS 16, Amendments to IFRS 3

Scope

- Business combinations are accounted for under the acquisition method (acquisition accounting), with limited exceptions.

Identifying a business combination

- A business combination is a transaction or other event in which an acquirer obtains control of one or more businesses.
- A business is an integrated set of activities and assets that is capable of being conducted and managed to provide a return to investors by way of dividends, lower costs or other economic benefits.

Identifying the acquirer

- The acquirer in a business combination is the combining entity that obtains control of the other combining business or businesses.

Determining the date of acquisition

- The date of acquisition is the date on which the acquirer obtains control of the acquiree.

Consideration transferred

- Consideration transferred by the acquirer, which is generally measured at fair value at the date of acquisition, may include assets transferred, liabilities incurred by the acquirer to the previous owners of the acquiree and equity interests issued by the acquirer.

Determining what is part of the business combination

- Any items that are not part of the business combination transaction are accounted for outside the acquisition accounting.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed

- The identifiable assets acquired and the liabilities assumed are recognised separately from goodwill at the date of acquisition if they meet the definition of assets and liabilities and are exchanged as part of the business combination. They are measured at the date of acquisition at their fair values, with limited exceptions.

Measurement of non-controlling interests

- The acquirer in a business combination can elect, on a transaction-by-transaction basis, to measure 'ordinary' non-controlling interests (NCI) at fair value, or at their proportionate interest in the net assets of the acquiree, at the date of acquisition.
- 'Other' NCI are generally measured at fair value.

Goodwill or a gain on bargain purchase

- Goodwill is measured as a residual and is recognised as an asset. When the residual is a deficit (gain on a bargain purchase), it is recognised in profit or loss after reassessing the values used in the acquisition accounting.

Subsequent measurement and accounting

- Adjustments to the acquisition accounting during the 'measurement period' reflect additional information about facts and circumstances that existed at the date of acquisition.
- In general, items recognised in the acquisition accounting are measured and accounted for in accordance with the relevant standards subsequent to the business combination.

2.7 Foreign currency translation

Currently effective: IAS 21, IAS 29, IFRIC 22

Determining the functional currency

- An entity measures its assets, liabilities, income and expenses in its functional currency, which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates.

Translation of foreign currency transactions

- Transactions that are not denominated in an entity's functional currency are foreign currency transactions. They are translated at actual rates or appropriate averages; exchange differences arising on translation are generally recognised in profit or loss.

Translation of the financial statements of foreign operations

- The financial statements of foreign operations are translated as follows:
 - assets and liabilities are translated at the closing rate;
 - income and expenses are translated at actual rates or appropriate averages; and
 - equity components are translated at the exchange rates at the date of the relevant transactions.
- Exchange differences arising on the translation of the financial statements of a foreign operation are recognised in other comprehensive income (OCI) and accumulated in a separate component of equity. The amount attributable to any non-controlling interests (NCI) is allocated to, and recognised as part of, NCI.

Translation from the functional currency into a different presentation currency

- An entity may present its financial statements in a currency other than its functional currency (presentation currency). An entity that translates its financial statements into a presentation currency other than its functional currency uses the same method as for translating the financial statements of a foreign operation.

Foreign operations with the functional currency of a hyperinflationary economy

- If the functional currency of a foreign operation is the currency of a hyperinflationary economy, then its financial statements are first adjusted to reflect the purchasing power at the current reporting date and then translated into a presentation currency using the exchange rate at the current reporting date. If the presentation currency is not the currency of a hyperinflationary economy, then comparative amounts are not restated.

Sale or liquidation of a foreign operation

- If an entity disposes of its entire interest in a foreign operation, or loses control over a foreign subsidiary or retains neither joint control nor significant influence over an associate or joint arrangement as a result of a partial disposal, then the cumulative exchange differences recognised in OCI are reclassified to profit or loss.
- A partial disposal of a foreign subsidiary without the loss of control leads to a proportionate reclassification of the cumulative exchange differences in OCI to NCI.
- A partial disposal of a joint arrangement or an associate with retention of either joint control or significant influence results in a proportionate reclassification of the cumulative exchange differences recognised in OCI to profit or loss.

Convenience translations

- An entity may present supplementary financial information in a currency other than its presentation currency if certain disclosures are made.

2.8 Accounting policies, errors and estimates

Currently effective: IAS 1, IAS 8

Forthcoming: Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8

Selection of accounting policies

- Accounting policies are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices that an entity applies in preparing and presenting financial statements.
- If IFRS does not cover a particular issue, then management uses its judgement based on a hierarchy of accounting literature.
- Unless otherwise specifically permitted by a standard, the accounting policies adopted by an entity are applied consistently to all similar items.

Changes in accounting policy and correction of prior-period errors

- An accounting policy is changed in response to a new or revised standard, or on a voluntary basis if the new policy provides reliable and more relevant information.
- Generally, accounting policy changes and corrections of prior-period errors are made by adjusting opening equity and restating comparatives unless this is impracticable.

Changes in accounting estimates

- Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively.
- If it is difficult to determine whether a change is a change in accounting policy or a change in estimate, then it is treated as a change in estimate.

Change in classification or presentation

- If the classification or presentation of items in the financial statements is changed, then comparatives are restated unless this is impracticable.

Key judgements and estimation uncertainties

- Disclosure is required for judgements that have a significant impact on the financial statements and for key sources of estimation uncertainty.

2.9 Events after the reporting date

Currently effective: IAS 1, IAS 10

Adjusting events

- The financial statements are adjusted to reflect events that occur after the reporting date, but before the financial statements are authorised for issue by management, if those events provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date.

Non-adjusting events

- Financial statements are not adjusted for events that are a result of conditions that arose after the reporting date, except when the going concern assumption is no longer appropriate.

Identifying the key event

- It is necessary to determine the underlying causes of an event and its timing to determine whether the event is adjusting or non-adjusting.

Current vs non-current classification

- The classification of liabilities as current or non-current is based on circumstances at the reporting date.

Earnings per share

- Earnings per share is restated to include the effect on the number of shares of certain share transactions that happen after the reporting date.

Going concern

- If management determines that the entity is not a going concern after the reporting date but before the financial statements are authorised for issue, then the financial statements are not prepared on a going concern basis.

2.10 Hyperinflation

Currently effective: IAS 21, IAS 29, IFRIC 7

General requirements

- If an entity's functional currency is hyperinflationary, then its financial statements are restated to express all items in the measuring unit current at the reporting date.

Indicators of hyperinflation

- Hyperinflation is indicated by the characteristics of the country's economy, and it is a matter of judgement when restatement for hyperinflation becomes necessary.

Restating the financial statements for hyperinflation

- *Step 1:* Restate the statement of financial position at the beginning of the reporting period by applying the change in the price index during the current period to all items.
- *Step 2:* Restate the statement of financial position at the end of the reporting period by adjusting non-monetary items to current purchasing power terms.
- *Step 3:* Restate the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.
- *Step 4:* Calculate the gain or loss on the net monetary position.

Ceasing hyperinflationary accounting

- If an entity's functional currency ceases to be hyperinflationary, then the amounts reported in the latest financial statements restated for hyperinflation are used as the basis for the carrying amounts in subsequent financial statements.

Supplementary historical cost information

- If an entity presents financial statements restated for hyperinflation, then in our view it is not appropriate to present additional supplementary financial information prepared on a historical cost basis.

3 Statement of financial position

3.1 General

Currently effective: IAS 1

Format of statement of financial position

- Although IFRS requires certain items to be presented in the statement of financial position, there is no prescribed format.
- Generally, an entity presents its statement of financial position classified between current and non-current assets and liabilities. An entity may present assets and liabilities in order of liquidity if this presentation provides reliable and more relevant information.

Current vs non-current

- An asset is classified as current if it is expected to be realised in the normal operating cycle or within 12 months, it is held for trading or it is cash or a cash equivalent.
- A liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle, it is due within 12 months or there are no unconditional rights to defer its settlement for at least 12 months.
- A liability that is payable on demand because certain conditions are breached is classified as current even if the lender has agreed, after the reporting date but before the financial statements are authorised for issue, not to demand repayment.
- Assets and liabilities that are part of working capital are classified as current even if they are due to be settled more than 12 months after the reporting date.

Offsetting

- A financial asset and a financial liability are offset if the criteria are met. Similarly, income tax balances are offset under certain circumstances. Other non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities cannot be offset.

3.2 Property, plant and equipment

Currently effective: IFRS 13, IAS 16, IFRIC 1

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Initial recognition

- Property, plant and equipment is initially recognised at cost.
- Cost includes all expenditure directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and working condition for its intended use.
- Cost includes the estimated cost of dismantling and removing the asset and restoring the site.

Subsequent measurement

- Subsequent expenditure is capitalised if it is probable that it will give rise to future economic benefits.
- Changes to an existing decommissioning or restoration obligation are generally added to or deducted from the cost of the related asset.

Depreciation

- Property, plant and equipment is depreciated over its expected useful life.
- Estimates of useful life and residual value, and the method of depreciation, are reviewed as a minimum at each reporting date. Any changes are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.
- No specific depreciation method is required. Possible methods include the straight-line method, the diminishing-balance (or reducing-balance) method, the sum-of-the-units (or units-of-production) method, the annuity method and renewals accounting. The use of the revenue-based depreciation method is prohibited.

Component accounting

- When an item of property, plant and equipment comprises individual components for which different depreciation methods or rates are appropriate, each component is depreciated separately.

Revaluations

- Property, plant and equipment may be revalued to fair value if fair value can be measured reliably. All items in the same class are revalued at the same time, and the revaluations are kept up to date.
- When the revaluation model is chosen, changes in fair value are generally recognised in other comprehensive income.

Retirements and disposals

- The gain or loss on disposal is the difference between the net proceeds received and the carrying amount of the asset.
- The date of disposal is the date on which the recipient obtains control of the asset (see 4.2), unless the disposal is by sale-and-leaseback (see 5.1).
- Compensation for the loss or impairment of property, plant and equipment is recognised in profit or loss when it is receivable.

3.3 Intangible assets and goodwill

Currently effective: IFRS 3, IFRS 13, IAS 38, IFRIC 12, SIC-32

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Definitions

- An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance.
- An intangible asset is 'identifiable' if it is separable or arises from contractual or legal rights.

Initial recognition and measurement

- In general, intangible assets are initially recognised at cost.
- The initial measurement of an intangible asset depends on whether it has been acquired separately, has been acquired as part of a business combination or was internally generated.
- Goodwill is recognised only in a business combination and is measured as a residual.
- Internal development expenditure is capitalised if specific criteria are met. These capitalisation criteria are applied to all internally developed intangible assets.
- Internal research expenditure is expensed as it is incurred.
- Expenditure relating to internally generated goodwill, customer lists, start-up costs, training costs, advertising and promotional activities, and relocation or a reorganisation is expensed as it is incurred.

Indefinite useful lives

- Acquired goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised, but instead are subject to impairment testing at least annually.

Finite useful lives

- Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised over their expected useful lives.
- No specific amortisation method is required. Possible methods include the straight-line method, the diminishing (or reducing-balance) method and the units-of-production method. The use of the revenue-based amortisation method is restricted.

Subsequent expenditure

- Subsequent expenditure on an intangible asset is capitalised only if the definition of an intangible asset and the recognition criteria are met.

Revaluations

- Intangible assets cannot be revalued to fair value unless there is an active market.

Retirements and disposals

- The gain or loss on disposal is the difference between the net proceeds received and the carrying amount of the asset.
- The date of disposal is the date on which the recipient obtains control of the asset (see 4.2).

3.4 Investment property

Currently effective: IFRS 13, IAS 16, IAS 17, IAS 40

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Scope

- Investment property is property (land or building) held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation, or both.
- Property held by a lessee under an operating lease may be classified as investment property if:
 - the rest of the definition of investment property is met; and
 - the lessee measures all of its investment property at fair value.
- A portion of a dual-use property is classified as investment property only if the portion could be sold or leased out under a finance lease. Otherwise, the entire property is classified as property, plant and equipment, unless the portion of the property used for own use is insignificant.
- If a lessor provides ancillary services and those services are a relatively insignificant component of the arrangement as a whole, then the property is classified as investment property.

Recognition and measurement

- Investment property is initially recognised at cost.
- After initial recognition, all investment property is measured under either:
 - the fair value model, subject to limited exceptions; or
 - the cost model.
- When the fair value model is chosen, changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.
- Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only if it is probable that it will give rise to future economic benefits.

Reclassification

- Transfers to or from investment property are made only if there has been a change in the use of the property.
- The intention to sell an investment property without redevelopment does not justify reclassification from investment property into inventory; the property continues to be classified as investment property until disposal unless it is classified as held-for-sale.

Disclosures

- Disclosure of the fair value of all investment property is required, regardless of the measurement model used.

3.5 Associates and the equity method

Currently effective: IAS 28

Forthcoming: Amendments to IAS 28

Assessing whether an investee is an associate

- The definition of an associate is based on significant influence, which is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity.
- There is a rebuttable presumption of significant influence if an entity holds 20 percent or more of the voting rights of another entity.
- Potential voting rights that are currently exercisable are considered in assessing significant influence.

Exceptions from applying the equity method

- Generally, associates and joint ventures are accounted for under the equity method in the consolidated financial statements.
- Venture capital organisations, mutual funds, unit trusts and similar entities may elect to account for investments in associates and joint ventures at fair value through profit or loss on an investment-by-investment basis.
- Equity accounting is not applied to an investee that is acquired with a view to its subsequent disposal if the criteria are met for classification as held-for-sale.

Applying the equity method

- In applying the equity method, an investee's accounting policies should be consistent with those of the investor.
- The investee's reporting date cannot differ from that of the investor by more than three months, and should be consistent from period to period. Adjustments are made for the effects of significant events and transactions between the two dates.

- If an equity-accounted investee incurs losses, then the carrying amount of the investor's interest is reduced but not to below zero. Further losses are recognised as a liability by the investor only to the extent that the investor has an obligation to fund losses or has made payments on behalf of the investee.
- Unrealised profits and losses on transactions with associates are eliminated to the extent of the investor's interest in the investee.

Changes in the status of equity-accounted investees

- On the loss of significant influence or joint control, the fair value of any retained investment is taken into account in calculating the gain or loss on the transaction that is recognised in profit or loss. Amounts recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss or transferred within equity as required by other standards.

3.6 Joint arrangements

Currently effective: IFRS 11

Forthcoming: Amendments to IFRS 11

Identifying joint arrangements

- A joint arrangement is an arrangement over which two or more parties have joint control. There are two types of joint arrangements: a joint operation and a joint venture.

Classifying joint arrangements

- In a joint operation, the parties to the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities related to the arrangement.
- In a joint venture, the parties to the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.
- A joint arrangement not structured through a separate vehicle is a joint operation.
- A joint arrangement structured through a separate vehicle may be either a joint operation or a joint venture. Classification depends on the legal form of the vehicle, contractual arrangements and an assessment of ‘other facts and circumstances’.

Accounting for joint arrangements

- A joint venturer accounts for its interest in a joint venture in the same way as an investment in an associate – i.e. generally under the equity method (see 3.5).
- A joint operator recognises its assets, liabilities and transactions – including its share in those arising jointly – in both its consolidated and separate financial statements. These assets, liabilities and transactions are accounted for in accordance with the relevant standards.
- A party to a *joint venture* that does not have joint control accounts for its interest as a financial instrument, or under the equity method if significant influence exists (see 3.5).
- A party to a *joint operation* that does not have joint control recognises its assets, liabilities and transactions – including its share in those arising jointly – if it has rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of the joint operation.

3.8 Inventories

Currently effective: IAS 2

Definition

- Inventories are assets:
 - held for sale in the ordinary course of business (finished goods);
 - in the process of production for sale (work in progress); or
 - in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed in the production process or in the rendering of services (raw materials and consumables).

Measurement

- Generally, inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.
- Cost includes all direct expenditure to get inventory ready for sale, including attributable overheads.
- The cost of inventory is generally determined under the first-in, first-out (FIFO) or weighted-average method. The use of the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method is prohibited.
- Inventory costing methods – e.g. the standard cost or retail methods – may be used when the results approximate the actual cost.
- If the net realisable value of an item that has been written down subsequently increases, then the write-down is reversed.

Recognition as an expense

- The cost of inventory is recognised as an expense when the inventory is sold.

3.9 Biological assets

Currently effective: IFRS 13, IAS 41

Scope

- Living animals or plants, except for bearer plants, are in the scope of the standard if they are subject to a process of management of biological transformation.

Measurement

- Biological assets in the scope of the standard are measured at fair value less costs to sell unless it is not possible to measure fair value reliably, in which case they are measured at cost.
- Gains and losses from changes in fair value less costs to sell are recognised in profit or loss.

Agricultural produce

- Agricultural produce harvested from a biological asset is measured at fair value less costs to sell at the point of harvest. After harvest, the inventories standard generally applies (see 3.8).

3.10 Impairment of non-financial assets

Currently effective: IFRS 13, IAS 36, IFRIC 10

Scope

- The impairment standard covers a variety of non-financial assets, including:
 - property, plant and equipment;
 - intangible assets and goodwill; and
 - investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.

Identifying the level at which assets are tested for impairment

- Whenever possible, an impairment test is performed for an individual asset. Otherwise, assets are tested for impairment in cash-generating units (CGUs). Goodwill is always tested for impairment at the level of a CGU or a group of CGUs.
- A CGU is the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups thereof.
- Goodwill is allocated to CGUs or groups of CGUs that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combination from which it arose. The allocation is based on the level at which goodwill is monitored internally, restricted by the size of the entity's operating segments before aggregation (see 5.2).

Determining when to test for impairment

- Impairment testing is required when there is an indication of impairment.
- Annual impairment testing is required for goodwill and intangible assets that either are not yet available for use or have an indefinite useful life. This impairment test may be performed at any time during the year, provided that it is performed at the same time each year.

Measuring an impairment loss

- An impairment loss is recognised if an asset's or CGU's carrying amount exceeds the greater of its fair value less costs to sell and value in use.
- Estimates of future cash flows used in the value in use calculation are specific to the entity, and need not be the same as those of market participants. The discount rate used in the value in use calculation reflects the market's assessment of the risks specific to the asset or CGU, as well as the time value of money.

Recognising an impairment loss

- An impairment loss for a CGU is allocated first to any goodwill and then pro rata to other assets in the CGU that are in the scope of the standard.
- An impairment loss is generally recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal of impairment

- Reversals of impairment are recognised, other than for impairments of goodwill.
- A reversal of an impairment loss is generally recognised in profit or loss.

3.12 Provisions, contingent assets and liabilities

Currently effective: IAS 37, IFRIC 1, IFRIC 5, IFRIC 6, IFRIC 21

Definitions

- A provision is a liability of uncertain timing or amount that arises from a past event that is expected to result in an outflow of the entity's resources.
- A contingent liability is a present obligation with uncertainties about either the probability of outflows of resources or the amount of the outflows, or a possible obligation whose existence is uncertain.
- A contingent asset is a possible asset whose existence is uncertain.

Recognition

- A provision is recognised for a legal or constructive obligation if there is a probable outflow of resources and the amount can be estimated reliably. 'Probable' in this context means more likely than not.
- A constructive obligation arises when an entity's actions create valid expectations of third parties that it will accept and discharge certain responsibilities.
- A provision is not recognised for future operating losses.
- A provision for restructuring costs is not recognised until there is a formal plan and details of the restructuring have been communicated to those affected by the plan.
- Provisions are not recognised for repairs or maintenance of own assets or for self-insurance before an obligation is incurred.
- A provision is recognised for a contract that is onerous.
- Contingent liabilities are recognised only if they are present obligations assumed in a business combination – i.e. there is uncertainty about the outflows but not about the existence of an obligation. Otherwise, contingent liabilities are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements unless the likelihood of an outflow of resources is remote.
- Contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position. If an inflow of economic benefits is probable, then details are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Measurement

- A provision is measured at the 'best estimate' of the expenditure to be incurred.
- Provisions are discounted if the effect of discounting is material.

Reimbursements

- A reimbursement right is recognised as a separate asset when recovery is virtually certain, capped at the amount of the related provision.

3.13 Income taxes

Currently effective: IAS 12, SIC-25

Forthcoming: IFRIC 23, Amendments to IAS 12

Scope

- Income taxes are taxes based on taxable profits, and taxes that are payable by a subsidiary, associate or joint arrangement on distribution to investors.

Current tax

- Current tax is the amount of income taxes payable (recoverable) in respect of the taxable profit (loss) for a period.

Deferred tax

- Deferred tax is the amount of income taxes payable (recoverable) in future periods as a result of past transactions or events.
- Deferred tax is recognised for the estimated future tax effects of temporary differences, unused tax losses carried forward and unused tax credits carried forward.
- A deferred tax liability is not recognised if it arises from the initial recognition of goodwill.
- A deferred tax asset or liability is not recognised if:
 - it arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination; and
 - at the time of the transaction, it affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit.
- Deferred tax is not recognised in respect of temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint arrangements if certain conditions are met.
- A deferred tax asset is recognised to the extent that it is *probable* that it will be realised.

Measurement

- Current and deferred taxes are measured based on rates that are enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.
- Deferred tax is measured based on the expected manner of settlement (liability) or recovery (asset). There is a rebuttable presumption that the carrying amount of investment property measured at fair value will be recovered through sale.
- Deferred tax is not discounted.

Classification and presentation

- The total income tax expense (income) recognised in a period is the sum of current tax plus the change in deferred tax assets and liabilities during the period, excluding tax recognised outside profit or loss – i.e. in other comprehensive income or directly in equity – or arising from a business combination.
- Income tax related to items recognised outside profit or loss is itself recognised outside profit or loss.
- Deferred tax is classified as non-current in a classified statement of financial position.
- An entity offsets current tax assets and current tax liabilities only when it has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities, and it intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.
- An entity offsets deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities only when it has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities, and the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on the same taxable entity, or different taxable entities that intend either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

4 Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

4.1 General

Currently effective: IAS 1

Format of statement of profit or loss and OCI

- Profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI) may be presented in either:
 - a single statement, with profit or loss and OCI presented in two sections; or
 - two statements: a 'statement of profit or loss' displaying components of profit or loss, followed immediately by a 'statement of comprehensive income' beginning with profit or loss and displaying components of OCI.
- Although IFRS requires certain items to be presented in the statement of profit or loss and OCI, there is no prescribed format.

Other comprehensive income

- OCI comprises items of income and expense that are not recognised in profit or loss.
- Items of OCI are grouped into items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss and those that will not be.
- Reclassification adjustments from OCI to profit or loss are disclosed in the statement of profit or loss and OCI or in the notes.

Use of the description 'unusual' or 'exceptional'

- In our view, use of the terms 'unusual' or 'exceptional' should be infrequent and reserved for items that justify a greater prominence.

Extraordinary items

- The presentation or disclosure of items of income and expense characterised as 'extraordinary items' is prohibited.

Offsetting

- Items of income and expense are not offset unless this is required or permitted by another standard, or when the amounts relate to similar transactions or events that are individually not material.

Alternative earnings measures

- The presentation of alternative earnings measures (e.g. EBITDA) in the statement of profit or loss and OCI is not generally prohibited, if certain criteria are met. National regulators may have more restrictive requirements.

4.2 Revenue

Currently effective: IFRS 15

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Overall approach

- The core principle of the standard is that revenue is recognised in the way that depicts the transfer of the goods or services to the customer at the amount to which the entity expects to be entitled. An entity implements the core principle by applying a five-step, contract-based model to recognise and measure revenue from contracts with customers.

Step 1 – Identify the contract

- An entity accounts for a contract in accordance with the model when the contract is legally enforceable and all of the following criteria are met:
 - the contract is approved and the parties are committed to their obligations;
 - rights to goods or services and payment terms can be identified;
 - the contract has commercial substance; and
 - collection of the consideration is considered probable.

Step 2 – Identify the performance obligations in the contract

- A performance obligation is a promise to deliver a good or service that is distinct – in other words:
 - the customer can benefit from the good or service either on its own or together with other resources that are readily available to the customer; and
 - the entity's promise to transfer the good or service to the customer is separately identifiable from other goods or services in the contract.
- An entity accounts for a series of distinct goods and services as a single performance obligation if they are substantially the same and have the same pattern of transfer.

Step 3 – Determine the transaction price

- The transaction price is the amount of consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring the goods or services to the customer.
- In determining the transaction price, an entity considers the effects of variable consideration (including the constraint), whether there is a significant financing component in the arrangement, consideration payable to the customer and non-cash consideration.
- Sales- and usage-based royalties arising from licences of intellectual property are excluded from the transaction price and are generally recognised as the subsequent sale or usage occurs.

Step 4 – Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract

- The transaction price is generally allocated to the performance obligations in a contract on the basis of relative stand-alone selling prices.
- Discounts and variable consideration may be allocated to one or more specific performance obligations in certain circumstances.

Step 5 – Recognise revenue

- Except for distinct licences of intellectual property, which are subject to specific guidance in the standard, revenue is recognised over time if one of the following criteria is met.
 - The customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the entity's performance as the entity performs.
 - The entity's performance creates or enhances an asset that the customer controls as the asset is created or enhanced.
 - The entity's performance does not create an asset with an alternative use to the entity and the entity has an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.
- If a performance obligation is not satisfied over time, then the entity recognises revenue at the point in time at which it transfers control of the goods or services to the customer.

Costs

- The standard includes guidance on accounting for incremental costs to obtain and costs to fulfil a contract that are not in the scope of another standard.

Presentation

- An entity recognises a contract asset when it transfers goods or services before it has an unconditional right to payment, and a contract liability when the customer makes a payment before it receives the goods or services.

Disclosures

- An entity provides specific quantitative and qualitative disclosures to enable users of the financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers.

Effective date and transition

- The standard becomes effective on 1 January 2018.
- An entity may make the transition to the standard using one of two methods.
 - Apply the standard retrospectively (with optional practical expedients) and record the effect of applying the standard at the start of the earliest presented comparative period.
 - Apply the standard to open contracts at the date of initial application and record the effect of applying the standard at that date. The comparative periods presented are not restated.

4.3 Government grants

Currently effective: IAS 20, IAS 41, SIC-10

Definition

- Government grants are transfers of resources to an entity by a government entity in return for compliance with certain conditions.

Recognition and measurement

- Unconditional government grants related to biological assets measured at fair value less costs to sell are recognised in profit or loss when they become receivable; conditional grants for such assets are recognised in profit or loss when the required conditions are met.
- Government grants that relate to the acquisition of an asset, other than a biological asset measured at fair value less costs to sell, are recognised in profit or loss as the related asset is depreciated or amortised.
- Other government grants are recognised in profit or loss when the entity recognises as expenses the related costs that the grants are intended to compensate.
- If a government grant is in the form of a non-monetary asset, then both the asset and the grant are recognised either at the fair value of the non-monetary asset or at a nominal amount.
- Forgivable or low-interest loans from a government may include components that need to be treated as government grants.

Presentation

- Government grants related to assets are presented as deferred income or as a deduction from the carrying amount of the related asset.
- Government grants related to income are presented separately in profit or loss, or as a deduction from the related expense.

4.4 Employee benefits

Currently effective: IAS 19, IFRIC 14

Forthcoming: Amendments to IAS 19

Overall approach

- The standard specifies the accounting for various types of employee benefits, including:
 - benefits provided for services rendered – e.g. pensions, lump-sum payments on retirement, paid absences and profit-sharing arrangements; and
 - benefits provided on termination of employment.
- Post-employment plans are classified as:
 - defined contribution plans: plans under which an entity pays a fixed contribution into a fund and will have no further obligation; and
 - defined benefit plans: all other plans.
- Liabilities and expenses for employee benefits that are provided in exchange for services are generally recognised in the period in which the services are rendered.
- The costs of providing employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss or other comprehensive income (OCI), unless other standards permit or require capitalisation.

Defined benefit post-employment plans

- To account for defined benefit post-employment plans, an entity:
 - determines the present value of a defined benefit obligation by applying an actuarial valuation method;
 - deducts the fair value of any plan assets;
 - adjusts for any effect of the asset ceiling; and
 - determines service costs and net interest (recognised in profit or loss) and remeasurements (recognised in OCI).

Multi-employer plans

- If insufficient information is available for a multi-employer defined benefit plan to be accounted for as a defined benefit plan, then it is treated as a defined contribution plan and additional disclosures are required.
- If an entity applies defined contribution plan accounting to a multi-employer defined benefit plan and there is an agreement that determines how a surplus in the plan would be distributed or a deficit in the plan funded, then an asset or a liability that arises from the contractual agreement is recognised.

Group plans

- If there is a contractual agreement or stated policy for allocating a group's net defined benefit cost, then participating group entities recognise the cost allocated to them.
- If there is no agreement or policy in place, then the net defined benefit cost is recognised by the entity that is the legal sponsor, and other participating entities expense their contribution payable for the period.

Other employee benefits

- Short-term employee benefits – i.e. those that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service – are expensed as they are incurred, except for termination benefits.
- The expense for long-term employee benefits, calculated on a discounted basis, is usually accrued over the service period.

Termination benefits

- A termination benefit is recognised at the earlier of:
 - the date on which the entity recognises costs for a restructuring in the scope of the provisions standard (see 3.12) that includes the payment of termination benefits; and
 - the date on which the entity can no longer withdraw the offer of the termination benefits.

4.5 Share-based payments

Currently effective: IFRS 2

Basic principles

- Goods or services received in a share-based payment transaction are measured at fair value.
- Equity-settled transactions with employees are generally measured based on the grant-date fair value of the equity instruments granted.
- Equity-settled transactions with non-employees are generally measured based on the fair value of the goods or services obtained.

Equity-settled transactions with employees

- For equity-settled transactions, an entity recognises a cost and a corresponding increase in equity. The cost is recognised as an expense unless it qualifies for recognition as an asset.
- Initial estimates of the number of equity-settled instruments that are expected to vest are adjusted to current estimates and ultimately to the actual number of equity-settled instruments that vest unless differences are due to market conditions.

Cash-settled transactions with employees

- For cash-settled transactions, an entity recognises a cost and a corresponding liability. The cost is recognised as an expense unless it qualifies for recognition as an asset.
- At each reporting date and at settlement date, the recognised liability is remeasured at fair value. The remeasurements are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee transactions with a choice of settlement

- Grants in which the counterparty has the choice of equity or cash settlement are accounted for as compound instruments. Therefore, the entity accounts for a liability component and a separate equity component.
- The classification of grants in which the entity has the choice of equity or cash settlement depends on whether the entity has the ability and intent to settle in shares.

Modifications and cancellations of employee transactions

- Modification of a share-based payment results in the recognition of any incremental fair value but not any reduction in fair value. Replacements are accounted for as modifications.
- Cancellation of a share-based payment results in accelerated recognition of any unrecognised expense.

Group share-based payment arrangements

- A share-based payment transaction in which the receiving entity, the reference entity and the settling entity are in the same group from the perspective of the ultimate parent is a group share-based payment transaction and is accounted for as such by both the receiving and the settling entities.
- A share-based payment that is settled by a shareholder external to the group is also in the scope of the standard from the perspective of the receiving entity, as long as the reference entity is in the same group as the receiving entity.
- A receiving entity that has no obligation to settle the transaction accounts for the share-based payment transaction as equity-settled.
- A settling entity classifies a share-based payment transaction as equity-settled if it is obliged to settle in its own equity instruments; otherwise, it classifies the transaction as cash-settled.

Share-based payments with non-employees

- Goods are recognised when they are obtained and services are recognised over the period in which they are received.

4.6 Borrowing costs

Currently effective: IAS 23

Forthcoming: Amendments to IAS 23

Overall approach

- Borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset generally form part of the cost of that asset.

Qualifying assets

- A 'qualifying asset' is one that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to be made ready for its intended use or sale.

Borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation

- Borrowing costs may include interest calculated under the effective interest method, certain finance charges and certain foreign exchange differences.
- Borrowing costs are reduced by interest income from the temporary investment of borrowings.

Period of capitalisation

- Capitalisation begins when an entity meets all of the following conditions:
 - expenditure for the asset is being incurred;
 - borrowing costs are being incurred; and
 - activities that are necessary to prepare the asset for its intended use or sale are in progress.
- Capitalisation ceases when the activities necessary to prepare the asset for its intended use or sale are substantially complete.

5 Special topics

5.1 Leases

Currently effective: IAS 17, IFRIC 4, SIC-15, SIC-27

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Definition

- An arrangement that at its inception can be fulfilled only through the use of a specific asset or assets, and that conveys a right to use that asset or those assets, is a lease or contains a lease.

Classification

- A lease is classified as either a finance lease or an operating lease.
- Lease classification depends on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the leased asset have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee.
- A lessee may classify a property interest held under an operating lease as an investment property (see 3.4). If this is done, then the lessee accounts for that lease as if it were a finance lease, measures investment property using the fair value model and recognises a lease liability for future lease payments.
- A lease of land with a building is treated as two separate leases: a lease of the land and a lease of the building; the two leases may be classified differently.
- In determining whether the lease of land is a finance lease or an operating lease, an important consideration is that land normally has an indefinite economic life.
- Lease classification is made at inception of the lease and is not revised unless the lease agreement is modified.

Accounting for finance leases

- The lessor derecognises the leased asset and recognises a finance lease receivable.
- The lessee recognises the leased asset and a liability for future lease payments.
- Special requirements for revenue recognition apply to manufacturer or dealer lessors granting finance leases.

Accounting for operating leases

- Under an operating lease, both parties treat the lease as an executory contract. The lessor and the lessee recognise the lease payments as income/expense over the lease term. The lessor recognises the leased asset in its statement of financial position; the lessee does not.
- Lessors and lessees recognise incentives granted to a lessee under an operating lease as a reduction in lease rental income/expense over the lease term.

Sale-and-leaseback transactions

- Immediate gain recognition from the sale-and-leaseback of an asset depends on whether the leaseback is classified as a finance or an operating lease and, if the leaseback is an operating lease, whether the sale takes place at fair value.

Linked transactions

- A series of linked transactions in the legal form of a lease is accounted for based on the substance of the arrangement; the substance may be that the series of transactions is not a lease.

5.1A Leases

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

IFRS 16 *Leases* is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. Early adoption is permitted if IFRS 15 is also adopted (see 4.2).

Scope

- The new standard applies to leases of property, plant and equipment and other assets, with only limited exclusions.
- A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Accounting model

- There are different accounting models for lessees and lessors.
 - Lessees apply a single on-balance sheet lease accounting model, unless they use the recognition exemptions for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.
 - Lessors apply a dual model and classify leases as either finance or operating leases.

Lessee accounting

- A lessee recognises a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying asset and a lease liability representing its obligation to make lease payments.
- A lessee measures the right-of-use asset at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Lessor accounting

- Lease classification by lessors – i.e. as a finance or operating lease – is made at inception of the lease and is reassessed only if there is a lease modification. The classification depends on whether substantially all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the leased asset have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee.

- Under a finance lease, a lessor derecognises the leased asset and recognises a finance lease receivable.
- Under an operating lease, the lessor treats the lease as an executory contract and recognises the lease payments as income over the lease term. The lessor recognises the leased asset in its statement of financial position.

Sale-and-leaseback transactions

- In a sale-and-leaseback transaction, the seller-lessee first determines if the buyer-lessor obtains control of the asset based on the new revenue recognition requirements (see 4.2). If the transaction does not qualify for sale accounting, then it is accounted for as a financing transaction.

Sub-lease transactions

- In a sub-lease transaction, the intermediate lessor accounts for the head lease and the sub-lease as two separate contracts. An intermediate lessor classifies a sub-lease with reference to the right-of-use asset arising from the head lease.

5.2 Operating segments

Currently effective: IFRS 8

Scope

- An entity presents segment disclosures if its debt or equity instruments are traded in a public market or it files, or is in the process of filing, its financial statements with a securities commission or other regulatory organisation for the purpose of issuing any class of instruments in a public market.

Management approach

- Segment disclosures are provided about the components of the entity that management monitors in making decisions about operating matters – i.e. they follow a 'management approach'.
- Such components (operating segments) are identified on the basis of internal reports that the entity's chief operating decision maker (CODM) regularly reviews in allocating resources to segments and in assessing their performance.

Aggregating operating segments

- The aggregation of operating segments is permitted only when the segments have 'similar' economic characteristics and meet a number of other specified criteria.

Determining reportable segments

- Reportable segments are identified based on quantitative thresholds of revenue, profit or loss, or assets.

Disclosing segment information

- The amounts disclosed for each reportable segment are the measures reported to the CODM, which are not necessarily based on the same accounting policies as the amounts recognised in the financial statements.
- Because segment profit or loss, segment assets and segment liabilities are disclosed as they are reported to the CODM, rather than as they would be reported under IFRS, disclosure of how these amounts are measured for each reportable segment is also required.

- Reconciliations between total amounts for all reportable segments and financial statement amounts are disclosed with a description of all material reconciling items.
- General and entity-wide disclosures include information about products and services, geographical areas – including country of domicile and individual foreign countries, if they are material – major customers, and factors used to identify an entity's reportable segments. These disclosures are required even if an entity has only one segment.

Comparative information

- Comparative information is normally restated for changes in reportable segments.

5.3 Earnings per share

Currently effective: IAS 33

Scope

- An entity presents basic and diluted earnings per share (EPS) if its ordinary shares or potential ordinary shares are traded in a public market, or it files, or is in the process of filing, its financial statements with a securities commission for the purpose of issuing any class of ordinary shares in a public market.

Basic EPS

- Basic EPS is calculated by dividing the earnings attributable to holders of ordinary equity of the parent by the weighted-average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted EPS

- To calculate diluted EPS, an entity adjusts profit or loss attributable to ordinary equity holders, and the weighted-average number of shares outstanding for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.
- Potential ordinary shares are considered dilutive only if they decrease EPS or increase loss per share from continuing operations. In determining whether potential ordinary shares are dilutive, each issue or series of potential ordinary shares is considered separately.
- Contingently issuable ordinary shares are included in basic EPS from the date on which all necessary conditions are satisfied and, when they are not yet satisfied, in diluted EPS based on the number of shares that would be issuable if the reporting date were the end of the contingency period.
- If a contract may be settled in either cash or shares at the entity's option, then it is presumed that it will be settled in ordinary shares and the resulting potential ordinary shares are used to calculate diluted EPS.
- If a contract may be settled in either cash or shares at the holder's option, then the more dilutive of cash and share settlement is used to calculate diluted EPS.
- For diluted EPS, diluted potential ordinary shares are determined independently for each period presented.

Retrospective adjustment

- If the number of ordinary shares outstanding changes without a corresponding change in resources, then the weighted-average number of ordinary shares outstanding during all periods presented is adjusted retrospectively for both basic and diluted EPS.

Presentation and disclosures

- Basic and diluted EPS for both continuing and total operations are presented in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI) with equal prominence, for each class of ordinary shares that has a differing right to share in the profit or loss for the period.
- Separate EPS information is disclosed for discontinued operations, either in the statement of profit or loss and OCI or in the notes to the financial statements.
- Adjusted basic and diluted EPS based on alternative earnings measures may be disclosed and explained in the notes to the financial statements.

5.4 Non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations

Currently effective: IFRS 5, IFRS 13, IFRIC 17

Held for sale – Classification

- Non-current assets and some groups of assets and liabilities (known as ‘disposal groups’) are classified as held-for-sale when their carrying amounts will be recovered principally through sale.

Held for sale – Measurement and presentation

- Assets classified as held-for-sale are not amortised or depreciated.
- Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale are generally measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are presented separately on the face of the statement of financial position.
- The comparative statement of financial position is not re-presented when a non-current asset or disposal group is classified as held-for-sale.

Held for distribution

- The classification, presentation and measurement requirements that apply to items that are classified as held-for-sale also apply to a non-current asset or disposal group that is classified as held-for-distribution.

Discontinued operations – Classification

- A discontinued operation is a component of an entity that either has been disposed of or is classified as held-for-sale.
- Discontinued operations are limited to those operations that are a separate major line of business or geographical area, and to subsidiaries acquired exclusively with a view to resale.

Discontinued operations – Presentation

- Discontinued operations are presented separately on the face of the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI).
- The comparative statement of profit or loss and OCI is re-presented for discontinued operations.

5.5 Related party disclosures

Currently effective: IAS 24

Identifying related parties

- Related party relationships include those involving control (direct or indirect), joint control or significant influence.
- Key management personnel and their close family members are also parties related to an entity.

Recognition and measurement

- There are no special recognition or measurement requirements for related party transactions.

Disclosures

- The disclosure of related party relationships between a parent and its subsidiaries is required, even if there have been no transactions between them.
- No disclosure is required in consolidated financial statements of intra-group transactions eliminated in preparing those statements.
- Comprehensive disclosures of related party transactions are required for each category of related party relationship.
- Key management personnel compensation is disclosed in total and is analysed by component.
- In certain instances, government-related entities are allowed to provide less detailed disclosures on related party transactions.

5.6 Investment entities

Currently effective: IFRS 9, IFRS 10, IFRS 13

Overall approach

- A qualifying investment entity is *required* to account for investments in controlled entities – as well as investments in associates and joint ventures – at fair value through profit or loss.
- As an exception, an investment entity consolidates a subsidiary that provides investment-related services or engages in permitted investment-related activities with investees.

Qualifying investment entities

- To qualify as an investment entity, an entity is required to meet three ‘essential’ tests, and is expected to have one or more ‘typical’ characteristics.
- The ‘essential’ tests are as follows:
 - the entity obtains funds from one or more investors to provide those investors with investment management services;
 - the entity commits to its investors that its business purpose is to invest for returns solely from capital appreciation and/or investment income; and
 - the entity measures and evaluates the performance of substantially all investments on a fair value basis.
- The ‘typical’ characteristics are as follows:
 - the entity has more than one investment;
 - the entity has more than one investor;
 - the investors are not related parties; and/or
 - the entity has ownership interests in the form of equity or similar interests.

Parents of investment entities

- The consolidation exception is mandatory for the parent of an investment entity that itself meets the definition of an investment entity.
- The consolidation exception is not carried through to the consolidated financial statements of a parent that is not itself an investment entity – i.e. the parent is nevertheless required to consolidate all subsidiaries.

5.7 Non-monetary transactions

Currently effective: IFRS 15, IAS 16, IAS 38, IAS 40

Definition

- A non-monetary transaction is an exchange of non-monetary assets, liabilities or services for other non-monetary assets, liabilities or services with little or no monetary consideration involved.

Exchanges of assets held for use

- Exchanges of assets held for use are generally measured at fair value and result in the recognition of gains or losses.
- As exceptions, exchanged assets held for use are recognised based on historical cost if the exchange lacks commercial substance or if fair value cannot be measured reliably for either the asset received or the asset given up.

Barter transactions

- Revenue is recognised for barter transactions unless the transaction is incidental to the entity's main revenue-generating activities or is with a counterparty in the same line of business to facilitate sales to customers or potential customers.

Donated assets

- Donated assets may be accounted for in a manner similar to government grants unless the transfer is, in substance, an equity contribution.

Transfers of assets from customers

- If a customer contributes property, plant and equipment to provide access to a supply of goods or services, then an entity assesses whether it obtains control of the asset. If so, then it accounts for it as non-cash consideration in a contract with a customer (see 4.2).

5.8 Accompanying financial and other information

Currently effective: IAS 1, IFRS Practice Statement *Management Commentary*

General

- An entity considers its legal or regulatory requirements in assessing what information is disclosed in addition to that required by IFRS.
- Financial and non-financial information in addition to that required by IFRS is generally presented outside the financial statements as accompanying information, but may be presented within the financial statements if appropriate.

Types of financial and non-financial information

- IFRS Practice Statement *Management Commentary* provides a broad, non-binding framework for the presentation of management commentary.

Corporate governance disclosures

- Although they are not required by IFRS, corporate governance disclosures may need to be provided under local legal or regulatory requirements.

5.9 Interim financial reporting

Currently effective: IAS 34, IFRIC 10

Scope and basis of preparation

- Interim financial statements contain either a complete or a condensed set of financial statements for a period shorter than an annual reporting period.

Form and content

- The following, as a minimum, are presented in condensed interim financial statements:
 - condensed statement of financial position;
 - condensed statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income;
 - condensed statement of cash flows;
 - condensed statement of changes in equity; and
 - selected explanatory notes.

Recognition and measurement

- Items are generally recognised and measured as if the interim period were a discrete period.
- As an exception, income tax expense for an interim period is based on an estimated average annual effective income tax rate.

Accounting policies

- Generally, the accounting policies applied in the interim financial statements are those that will be applied in the next annual financial statements.

5.10 Disclosure of interests in other entities

Currently effective: IFRS 12

Overall approach

- An entity that holds interests in other entities (including those classified as held-for-sale) provides users with information that enables them to evaluate the nature and risks of holding those interests, as well as the effects of the interests on the entity's financial position, performance and cash flows.

Interests in consolidated subsidiaries

- If an entity has consolidated subsidiaries, then it provides information in its consolidated financial statements that helps users to understand the composition of the group and the interests of non-controlling interests (NCI) (see 2.5) in the group's activities and cash flows. This includes:
 - the nature and extent of significant restrictions on the entity's ability to access or use assets or settle liabilities of the group;
 - specific information on any subsidiaries with material NCI, such as financial information for the subsidiary and information about the proportion of NCI and accumulated NCI;
 - the consequences of changes in its ownership in a subsidiary and of losing control; and
 - the nature of and any changes in the risk associated with the interests in consolidated structured entities.

Interests in joint arrangements and associates

- If an entity holds interests in joint arrangements and associates, then it provides information in its consolidated financial statements that helps users to understand the nature and risks associated with these interests. This includes:
 - significant restrictions on a joint arrangement's ability to transfer cash dividends or to repay loans and advances;
 - the nature, extent and financial effect of holding an interest in a joint arrangement or an associate; and
 - any commitments and contingent liabilities towards a joint arrangement or an associate.

Interests in consolidated structured entities

- If an entity holds interests in consolidated structured entities, then it discloses the terms of any contractual arrangement that could require it to provide financial support to the consolidated structured entity.

Interests in unconsolidated structured entities

- If an entity holds interests in unconsolidated structured entities, then it provides disclosures that enable users to understand the specific risks arising from holding these interests and the nature of these interests. The required disclosures include:
 - general information about interests in unconsolidated entities – e.g. the nature, purpose, size and activities of an unconsolidated structured entity; and
 - information about the nature of risk – e.g. carrying amounts of assets and liabilities recognised in the consolidated financial statements, maximum exposure to loss from the holding and any commitments to provide financial support.
- If an entity does not hold an interest in an unconsolidated structured entity, but has sponsored such an entity, then it discloses the following:
 - the method for determining how a sponsored entity has been identified;
 - income from the structured entity in the reporting period; and
 - the carrying amount of all of the assets transferred to the structured entity during the reporting period.

Investment entities

- An investment entity (see 5.6) discloses quantitative data about its exposure to risks arising from unconsolidated subsidiaries.
- To the extent that an investment entity does not have ‘typical’ characteristics, it discloses the significant judgements and assumptions made in concluding that it is an investment entity.

5.11 Extractive activities

Currently effective: IFRS 6, IFRIC 20

Scope

- Entities identify and account for pre-exploration expenditure, exploration and evaluation (E&E) expenditure and development expenditure separately.
- There is no industry-specific guidance on the recognition or measurement of pre-exploration expenditure or development expenditure. Pre-exploration expenditure is generally expensed as it is incurred.

E&E expenditure

- Each type of E&E expenditure can be expensed as it is incurred or capitalised, in accordance with the entity's selected accounting policy.
- Capitalised E&E expenditure is classified as either tangible or intangible assets, according to its nature.

Stripping costs

- Stripping costs incurred in the production phase of surface mining activities that improve access to ore to be mined in future periods are capitalised if certain criteria are met.

Impairment

- Some relief is provided from the general requirements of IFRS (see 3.10) in assessing whether there is any indication of impairment of E&E assets.
- The test for recoverability of E&E assets can combine several cash-generating units, as long as the combination is not larger than an operating segment (see 5.2).

5.12 Service concession arrangements

Currently effective: IFRIC 12, SIC-29

Scope

- IFRS provides specific guidance on the accounting by private sector entities (operators) for public-to-private service concession arrangements.
- The interpretation applies only to those service concession arrangements in which the public sector (the grantor) controls or regulates the services provided, prices to be charged and any significant residual interest in the infrastructure.

Operator's rights over the infrastructure

- For service concession arrangements in the scope of the interpretation, the operator does not recognise public service infrastructure as its own property, plant and equipment if the infrastructure is existing infrastructure of the grantor, or if the infrastructure is built or acquired by the operator as part of the service concession arrangement.

Items provided by the grantor

- If the grantor provides other items to the operator that the operator may retain or sell at its option, then the operator recognises those items as its assets, with a liability for unfulfilled obligations.

Recognition of construction or upgrade revenue

- The operator recognises revenue and costs for services provided by applying the guidance in the revenue standard (see 4.2).

Recognition of consideration receivable for construction or upgrade services

- The operator recognises consideration receivable from the grantor for construction or upgrade services – including upgrades of existing infrastructure – as a financial asset and/or an intangible asset.
- The operator recognises a financial asset to the extent that it has an unconditional right to receive cash (or another financial asset) irrespective of the use of the infrastructure.
- The operator recognises an intangible asset to the extent that it has a right to charge for use of the infrastructure.

Subsequent accounting for financial and intangible assets

- Any financial asset recognised is accounted for in accordance with the relevant financial instruments standards (see [section 7](#)), and any intangible asset in accordance with the intangible assets standard (see [3.3](#)). There are no exemptions from these standards for operators.

Maintenance obligations and upgrade services

- The operator recognises and measures contractual obligations to maintain or restore infrastructure in accordance with the provisions standard (see [3.12](#)), except for any upgrade element, which is accounted for by applying the guidance in the revenue standard (see [4.2](#)).

Borrowing costs

- The operator generally capitalises attributable borrowing costs incurred during construction or upgrade periods to the extent that it has a right to receive an intangible asset. Otherwise, the operator expenses borrowing costs as they are incurred.

5.13 Common control transactions and Newco formations

Currently effective: Not explicitly covered, but IFRS 3, IFRS 10 and IFRIC 17 are relevant

Common control transactions

- In our view, the acquirer in a common control transaction has a choice of applying either book value accounting or acquisition accounting in its consolidated financial statements.
- In our view, the transferor in a common control transaction that is a demerger has a choice of applying either book value accounting or fair value accounting in its consolidated financial statements. In other disposals, judgement may be required in determining the appropriate consideration transferred in calculating the gain or loss on disposal.
- In our view, an entity generally has a choice of accounting for a common control transaction using book value accounting, fair value accounting or exchange amount accounting in its separate financial statements when investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost.
- Common control transactions are accounted for using the same accounting policy to the extent that the substance of the transactions is similar.
- If a new parent is established within a group and certain criteria are met, then the cost of the acquired subsidiaries in the separate financial statements of the new parent is determined with reference to its share of total equity of the subsidiaries acquired.

Newco formations

- Newco formations generally fall into one of two categories: to effect a business combination involving a third party; or to effect a restructuring among entities under common control.
- In a Newco formation to effect a business combination involving a third party, acquisition accounting generally applies.

- In a Newco formation to effect a restructuring among entities under common control, in our view it is first necessary to determine whether there has been a business combination. If there has been, then the same accounting choices are available as for common control transactions in consolidated financial statements.
- If a Newco is used in a conditional initial public offering, then in our view the transaction can be analysed in the same way as either a Newco formation to effect a business combination involving a third party, or a Newco formation to effect a restructuring among entities under common control.

6 First-time adoption of IFRS

6.1 First-time adoption of IFRS

Currently effective: IFRS 1, IFRS 14

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

General requirements

- IFRS sets out specific transition requirements and exemptions available on the first-time adoption of IFRS.
- An opening statement of financial position is prepared at the date of transition, which is the starting point for accounting in accordance with IFRS.
- The date of transition is the beginning of the earliest comparative period presented on the basis of IFRS.
- At least one year of comparatives is presented on the basis of IFRS, together with the opening statement of financial position.
- The transition requirements and exemptions on the first-time adoption of IFRS apply to both annual and interim financial statements.

Selection of accounting policies

- Accounting policies are chosen from IFRS effective at the first annual IFRS reporting date.
- Generally, those accounting policies are applied retrospectively in preparing the opening statement of financial position and in all periods presented in the first IFRS financial statements.

Mandatory exceptions

- Retrospective application of changes in accounting policy is prohibited in some cases – generally, when doing so would require hindsight.

Optional exemptions

- A number of exemptions are available from the general requirement for retrospective application of IFRS accounting policies.

Disclosures

- Detailed disclosures on the first-time adoption of IFRS include reconciliations of equity and profit or loss from previous GAAP to IFRS.

6.2 Regulatory deferral accounts and first-time adoption of IFRS

Currently effective: IFRS 14

Overall approach and scope

- An eligible entity can apply this standard only if it is a first-time adopter of IFRS. The standard does not affect other entities.
- The standard permits an eligible entity to continue to recognise and measure regulatory deferral account balances in accordance with its previous GAAP when it adopts IFRS – i.e. to apply a ‘grandfathering’ approach.
- An entity is eligible to apply the standard only if it:
 - is subject to oversight and/or approval from an authorised body (the rate regulator);
 - accounted for regulatory deferral account balances in its financial statements under its previous GAAP immediately before adopting IFRS; and
 - elects to apply the requirements of the standard in its first IFRS financial statements.
- Adoption of the standard is optional for eligible entities, but the decision to apply it has to be taken in an entity’s first IFRS financial statements.
- The grandfathering approach does not apply to presentation. Regulatory deferral account balances are presented separately from assets, liabilities, income and expenses that are recognised in accordance with other standards.

Application of other standards

- The normal requirements of other standards apply to regulatory deferral account balances, subject to some exceptions, exemptions and additional requirements that are specified in the standard, including:
 - presentation of earnings per share both including and excluding the net movement in regulatory deferral account balances;
 - application of the requirements of the impairment standard (see 3.10) to a cash-generating unit that includes regulatory deferral account balances;

- exclusion from the measurement requirements of the standard on non-current assets held for sale and discontinued operations (see 5.4);
- application of uniform accounting policies to the regulatory deferral account balances of all of an entity's subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in its consolidated financial statements, regardless of whether those investees account for those balances;
- application of business combinations guidance, with an exception for the recognition and measurement of an acquiree's regulatory deferral account balances;
- additional disclosure requirements if an entity's interests in its subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures contain regulatory deferral account balances; and
- the option to use the deemed cost exemption on transition to IFRS for items of property, plant and equipment or intangible assets that are, or were previously, used in operations that are subject to rate regulation.

Disclosures

- An entity provides disclosures that enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature of, risks associated with and effects of rate regulation on an entity's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Financial instruments – Introduction to sections 7 and 7I

The IFRS requirements related to financial instruments are covered in two sections.

- Section 7: Requirements of IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* and the related version of IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*, which are effective from 1 January 2018 and should be applied by all entities, unless they are specifically exempt.
- Section 7I: Requirements of the predecessor standards – IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* and the related version of IFRS 7 – which may be applied by:
 - an insurer until IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts* becomes effective on 1 January 2021 if it meets specific criteria; and
 - an entity² that on adopting IFRS 9 chooses to continue to apply the hedge accounting requirements in IAS 39 either:
 - in their entirety instead of those in chapter 6 of IFRS 9 until a new standard resulting from the IASB's ongoing project on accounting for dynamic risk management becomes effective; or
 - for a fair value hedge of the interest rate exposure of a portfolio of financial assets or financial liabilities.

2. An entity that chooses to continue to apply the hedge accounting requirements in IAS 39 is subject to the hedge accounting disclosure requirements in IFRS 7, as updated by IFRS 9.

7 Financial instruments

7.1 Scope and definitions

Currently effective: IFRS 7, IFRS 9, IFRS 15, IAS 32

Forthcoming: IFRS 16

Scope

- The standards on financial instruments generally apply to all financial instruments. They also apply to a contract to buy or sell a non-financial item if the contract can be settled net in cash – including if the non-financial item is readily convertible into cash – unless the contract is held for delivery of the item in accordance with the entity's expected purchase, sale or usage requirements ('own-use exemption').
- However, an entity can, at inception, irrevocably designate a contract that meets the own-use exemption as measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) if certain criteria are met.
- Financial instruments subject to scope exclusions include certain loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts, as well as financial instruments in the scope of other specific standards – e.g. investments in subsidiaries and associates, insurance contracts and employee benefits. However, certain investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are in the scope of the financial instruments standards.

Definition

- A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.
- Financial instruments include a broad range of financial assets and financial liabilities. They include both primary financial instruments (e.g. cash, receivables, debt, shares in another entity) and derivative financial instruments (e.g. options, forwards, futures, interest rate swaps, currency swaps).

7.2 Derivatives and embedded derivatives

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Derivatives

- A derivative is a financial instrument or other contract in the scope of the financial instruments standard, the value of which changes in response to some underlying variable (other than a non-financial variable that is specific to a party to the contract), that has an initial net investment smaller than would be required for other instruments that have a similar response to the variable and that will be settled at a future date.

Embedded derivatives

- An embedded derivative is a component of a hybrid contract that affects the cash flows of the hybrid contract in a manner similar to a stand-alone derivative instrument.
- A hybrid instrument also includes a non-derivative host contract that may be a financial or a non-financial contract.
- An embedded derivative with a host contract that is a financial asset in the scope of IFRS 9 is not separated; instead, the hybrid financial instrument is assessed as a whole for classification under IFRS 9.
- A hybrid instrument with host contract that is not a financial asset in the scope of IFRS 9 is assessed to determine whether the embedded derivative(s) is required to be separated from the host contract.
- An embedded derivative is not accounted for separately from the host contract if it is closely related to the host contract, if a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would not meet the definition of a derivative or if the entire contract is measured at fair value through profit or loss. In other cases, an embedded derivative is accounted for separately as a derivative.

7.3 Equity and financial liabilities

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Related standards: IAS 1, IAS 12, IAS 32, IFRIC 2, IFRIC 17, IFRIC 19

Classification

- An instrument, or its components, is classified on initial recognition as a financial liability, a financial asset or an equity instrument in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement and the definitions of a financial liability, a financial asset and an equity instrument.
- If a financial instrument has both equity and liability components, then they are classified separately.

Recognition and measurement

- Gains and losses on transactions in an entity's own equity instruments are recognised directly in equity.
- Dividends and other distributions to the holders of equity instruments are recognised directly in equity.
- Incremental costs that are directly attributable to equity transactions such as issuing or buying back own equity instruments or distributing dividends are recognised directly in equity.

Reclassification of instruments between liability and equity

- The classification of an instrument is made on initial recognition and is not generally revised as a result of subsequent changes in circumstances. However, a reclassification between equity and liability or vice versa may be required in some cases.

Presentation

- An entity takes into account its legal environment when choosing how to present its own shares within equity.
- Non-controlling interests are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position within equity separately from the parent shareholders' equity.

7.4 Classification of financial assets

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Forthcoming: Amendments to IFRS 9

Classification

- Financial assets are classified into one of three measurement categories:
 - amortised cost;
 - fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI); or
 - fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).
- The categorisation determines whether and where any remeasurement to fair value is recognised.
- Financial assets classified as at FVTPL are further subcategorised as mandatorily measured at FVTPL (which includes derivatives) or designated as at FVTPL on initial recognition.

Reclassification of financial assets

- Reclassifications of financial assets are made only on a change in an entity's business model that is significant to its operations. These are expected to be very infrequent.
- No other reclassifications are permitted.

7.5 Classification of financial liabilities

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Classification

- Financial liabilities are generally classified into two measurement categories:
 - amortised cost; or
 - fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).
- The categorisation determines whether and where any remeasurement to fair value is recognised.
- Financial liabilities classified as at FVTPL are further subcategorised as held-for-trading (which includes derivatives) or designated as at FVTPL on initial recognition.

Reclassification of financial liabilities

- Reclassification of financial liabilities is not permitted.

7.6 Recognition and derecognition

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Related standards: IFRIC 19

Initial recognition

- Financial assets and financial liabilities, including derivative instruments, are recognised in the statement of financial position when the entity becomes a party to the contract. However, 'regular-way' purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised either at trade date or at settlement date.

Derecognition of financial assets

- A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or when the financial asset is transferred and the transfer meets certain specified conditions.
- An entity derecognises a transferred financial asset if it transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. An entity does not derecognise a transferred financial asset if it retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.
- An entity continues to recognise a transferred financial asset to the extent of its continuing involvement if it has neither retained nor transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership, and it has retained control of the financial asset.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

- A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished – i.e. it is discharged or cancelled or expires – or when its terms are substantially modified.

7.7 Measurement

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Related standards: IFRS 13, IFRS 15, IAS 21

Measurement on initial recognition

- On initial recognition, financial assets and financial liabilities are generally measured at fair value plus or minus directly attributable transaction costs if the instruments are not classified as at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Subsequent measurement

- Financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value or amortised cost. If a financial asset is measured at fair value, then changes in its fair value are recognised as follows.
 - *Debt financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI):* Changes in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income (OCI), except for foreign exchange gains and losses and expected credit losses, which are recognised in profit or loss. On derecognition, any gains or losses accumulated in OCI are reclassified to profit or loss.
 - *Equity financial assets measured at FVOCI:* All changes in fair value are recognised in OCI. The amounts in OCI are not reclassified to profit or loss.
 - *Financial assets at FVTPL:* All changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.
- Financial liabilities, other than those classified as at FVTPL, are generally measured at amortised cost.
- If a financial liability is mandatorily measured at FVTPL, then all changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.
- If a financial liability is designated as at FVTPL, then a split presentation of changes in fair value is generally required. The portion of the fair value changes that is attributable to changes in the financial liability's credit risk is recognised directly in OCI. The remainder is recognised in profit or loss. The amount presented in OCI is never reclassified to profit or loss.
- All derivatives (including separated embedded derivatives) are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

Recognition of interest and dividend income

- Interest income and interest expense are calculated using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is calculated on initial recognition based on estimated cash flows considering all of the contractual terms of the financial instrument but excluding expected credit losses. For floating rate instruments, the effective interest rate is updated to reflect movements in market rates of interest.
- Dividend income on equity investments measured at FVOCI is recognised in profit or loss, unless it clearly represents a repayment of part of the cost of the investment.

7.8 Impairment

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Related standards: IFRS 3, IFRS 15

Scope

- The impairment model covers debt instruments measured at amortised cost and fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI), certain loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts, lease receivables and contract assets.
- Investments in equity instruments are outside the scope of IFRS 9's impairment requirements.

Expected credit loss model

- Impairment is recognised using an expected loss model, which means that it is not necessary for a loss event to occur before an impairment loss is recognised.
- The general approach uses two measurement bases: 12-month expected credit losses and lifetime expected credit losses, depending on whether the credit risk on a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition.
- The model includes specific requirements for certain types of financial assets and also certain practical expedients.

Measurement

- Expected credit losses of a financial instrument are measured in a way that reflects:
 - a probability-weighted amount determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes;
 - the time value of money; and
 - reasonable and supportable information about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions.

7.9 Hedge accounting

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Related standards: IAS 39, IFRIC 16

Introduction

- Hedge accounting allows an entity to measure assets, liabilities and firm commitments selectively on a basis different from that otherwise stipulated in IFRS or to defer the recognition in profit or loss of gains or losses on derivatives.
- Hedge accounting is voluntary. However, it is permitted only when strict requirements related to documentation and effectiveness are met.
- Hedge accounting is required to be closely aligned with an entity's actual risk management objectives. As an alternative to hedge accounting, an entity may elect a fair value option for certain credit exposures.

Hedge accounting models

- There are three hedge accounting models:
 - fair value hedges of fair value exposures;
 - cash flow hedges of cash flow exposures; and
 - net investment hedges of currency exposures on net investments in foreign operations.

Qualifying hedged items

- Qualifying hedged items can be:
 - recognised assets or liabilities;
 - unrecognised firm commitments;
 - highly probable forecast transactions;
 - net investments in foreign operations; or
 - aggregated exposures (a combination of a non-derivative exposure and a derivative exposure).

Qualifying hedging instruments

- The following contracts with a party external to the reporting entity qualify as hedging instruments:
 - derivative instruments (with some exceptions); and
 - certain non-derivative financial instruments.

Qualifying hedged risks

- The hedged risk should be one that could affect profit or loss or other comprehensive income (OCI) if the hedged item is an equity investment for which changes in fair value are presented in OCI).

Effectiveness testing

- Effectiveness testing is conducted on a prospective basis only.

Discontinuing hedge accounting

- Hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively if it ceases to meet the qualifying criteria after considering the rebalancing – for example:
 - the risk management objective for the hedging relationship has changed;
 - the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised;
 - there is no longer an economic relationship between the hedged item and the hedging instrument; or
 - the effect of the credit risk starts dominating the value changes that result from the economic relationship.

Macro hedge accounting

- The IASB has a separate active project to address macro hedge accounting.
- In the meantime, for a fair value hedge of the interest rate exposure of a portfolio of financial instruments, an entity may apply the hedge accounting requirements of IAS 39 rather than IFRS 9.

7.10 Presentation and disclosures

Currently effective: IFRS 7

Related standards: IFRS 9, IFRS 13, IAS 1, IAS 32

Offsetting

- A financial asset and a financial liability are offset only when an entity:
 - currently has a legally enforceable right to set off; and
 - has an intention to settle net or to settle both amounts simultaneously.

Disclosure objectives

- An entity is required to disclose information that enables users to evaluate:
 - the significance of financial instruments for the entity's financial position and performance; and
 - the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments and how the entity manages those risks.

Significance of financial instruments for financial position and performance

- Specific disclosure requirements include information on:
 - carrying amounts;
 - fair values;
 - items designated as at fair value through profit or loss;
 - investments in equity instruments designated as at fair value through other comprehensive income;
 - reclassification of financial assets between categories;
 - offsetting of financial assets and financial liabilities and the effect of potential netting arrangements;
 - collateral; and
 - hedge accounting.

Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

- Disclosure of both qualitative and quantitative information is required.
- Qualitative disclosures describe management's objectives, policies and processes for managing risks arising from financial instruments.
- Quantitative data about the exposure to risks arising from financial instruments is based on information provided internally to key management.
- Additionally, certain disclosures about the entity's exposures to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments are required, irrespective of whether this information is provided to management.

Transfers of financial assets

- Information is provided about financial assets that are not derecognised in their entirety.
- Information is provided about financial assets that are derecognised in their entirety but in which the entity has a continuing involvement.

7.11 Transition to IFRS 9

Currently effective: IFRS 9

Forthcoming: Amendments to IFRS 9

Related standards: IFRS 7, IAS 8, Amendments to IFRS 4

Introduction

- IFRS 9 is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, with early adoption permitted.
- Transition is as follows:
 - *for classification and measurement, including impairment*: generally retrospective, but with significant exemptions; and
 - *for hedge accounting*: generally prospective, but with limited exceptions.
- There is no requirement to restate comparatives, except in limited circumstances related to hedge accounting.

Date of initial application

- The date of initial application is the date on which an entity first applies IFRS 9. It is the beginning of the reporting period in which an entity adopts IFRS 9, and not the beginning of the comparative period.
- This date is relevant to several assessments necessary to apply IFRS 9, including:
 - the business model assessment;
 - an election to present changes in fair value of an equity instrument in other comprehensive income (OCI);
 - designations or revocation of designations of financial instruments as at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL);
 - the determination of a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition when assessing impairment; and
 - the assessment of compliance with qualifying hedge accounting criteria.
- IFRS 9 is not applied to financial instruments that have already been derecognised at the date of initial application.

Disclosure

- Specific quantitative and qualitative disclosures are required in the reporting period in which IFRS 9 is initially applied.

71 Financial instruments – IAS 39

71.1 Scope and definitions

Currently effective: IFRS 7, IAS 32, IAS 39

Scope

- The standards on financial instruments generally apply to all financial instruments. They also apply to a contract to buy or sell a non-financial item if the contract can be settled net in cash – including if the non-financial item is readily convertible into cash – unless the contract is held for delivery of the item in accordance with the entity's expected purchase, sale or usage requirements ('own-use exemption').
- Financial instruments that are excluded from the scope include certain loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts as well as financial instruments in the scope of other specific standards – e.g. investments in subsidiaries and associates, insurance contracts and employee benefits. However, certain investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are in the scope of the financial instruments standards.

Definition

- A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.
- Financial instruments include a broad range of financial assets and financial liabilities. They include both primary financial instruments (e.g. cash, receivables, debt, shares in another entity) and derivative financial instruments (e.g. options, forwards, futures, interest rate swaps, currency swaps).

71.2 Derivatives and embedded derivatives

Currently effective: IAS 39, IFRIC 9

Derivatives

- A derivative is a financial instrument or other contract in the scope of the financial instruments standards, the value of which changes in response to some underlying variable (other than a non-financial variable that is specific to a party to the contract), that has an initial net investment smaller than would be required for other instruments that have a similar response to the variable and that will be settled at a future date.

Embedded derivatives

- An embedded derivative is a component of a hybrid contract that affects the cash flows of the hybrid contract in a manner similar to a stand-alone derivative instrument.
- A hybrid instrument also includes a non-derivative host contract that may be a financial or a non-financial contract.
- A hybrid instrument is assessed to determine whether the embedded derivative(s) has to be separated from the host contract.
- An embedded derivative is not accounted for separately from the host contract if it is closely related to the host contract, if a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would not meet the definition of a derivative or if the entire contract is measured at fair value through profit or loss. In other cases, an embedded derivative is accounted for separately as a derivative.

71.3 Equity and financial liabilities

Currently effective: IAS 32, IAS 39, IFRIC 2, IFRIC 17, IFRIC 19

Classification

- An instrument, or its components, is classified on initial recognition as a financial liability, a financial asset or an equity instrument in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement and the definitions of a financial liability, a financial asset and an equity instrument.
- If a financial instrument has both equity and liability components, then they are classified separately.

Recognition and measurement

- Gains and losses on transactions in an entity's own equity instruments are recognised directly in equity.
- Dividends and other distributions to the holders of equity instruments are recognised directly in equity.
- Incremental costs that are directly attributable to equity transactions such as issuing or buying back own equity instruments or distributing dividends are recognised directly in equity.

Reclassification of instruments between liability and equity

- The classification of an instrument is made on initial recognition and is not generally revised as a result of subsequent changes in circumstances. However, a reclassification between equity and liability or vice versa may be required in some cases.

Presentation

- An entity takes into account its legal environment when choosing how to present its own shares within equity.
- Non-controlling interests are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position within equity separately from the parent shareholders' equity.

71.4 Classification of financial assets and financial liabilities

Currently effective: IAS 39

Classification

- Financial assets are classified into one of four categories: at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL); loans and receivables; held-to-maturity; or available-for-sale. Financial liabilities are categorised as either at FVTPL or other liabilities. The categorisation determines whether and where any remeasurement to fair value is recognised.
- Financial assets and financial liabilities classified as at FVTPL are further subcategorised as held-for-trading (which includes derivatives) or designated as at FVTPL on initial recognition.

Reclassification of financial assets

- Reclassifications of financial assets are permitted or required if specific conditions are met.
- Financial assets may not be reclassified into the FVTPL category after initial recognition.
- Reclassifications or sales of held-to-maturity assets may require other held-to-maturity assets to be reclassified as available-for-sale.

Reclassification of financial liabilities

- Reclassification of financial liabilities into and out of FVTPL is not permitted.

71.5 Recognition and derecognition

Currently effective: IAS 39, IFRIC 19

Initial recognition

- Financial assets and financial liabilities, including derivative instruments, are recognised in the statement of financial position when the entity becomes a party to the contract. However, ‘regular-way’ purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised either at trade date or at settlement date.

Derecognition of financial assets

- A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or when the financial asset is transferred and the transfer meets certain specified conditions.
- An entity derecognises a transferred financial asset if it transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. An entity does not derecognise a transferred financial asset if it retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership.
- An entity continues to recognise a transferred financial asset to the extent of its continuing involvement if it has neither retained nor transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership, and it has retained control of the financial asset.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

- A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished – i.e. it is discharged or cancelled or expires – or when its terms are substantially modified.

71.6 Measurement and gains and losses

Currently effective: IFRS 13, IAS 39, IAS 18, IAS 21

Measurement on initial recognition

- On initial recognition, financial assets and financial liabilities are generally measured at fair value plus or minus directly attributable transaction costs if the instruments are not classified as at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).

Subsequent measurement

- Financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value, except for loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments (which are measured at amortised cost) and investments in unlisted equity instruments in the rare circumstances that fair value cannot be measured reliably (which are measured at cost).
- Changes in the fair value of available-for-sale financial assets are recognised in other comprehensive income (OCI), except for impairment losses and foreign exchange gains and losses on available-for-sale monetary items, which are recognised in profit or loss. On derecognition, any gains or losses accumulated in OCI are reclassified to profit or loss.
- Financial liabilities, other than those classified at FVTPL, are generally measured at amortised cost.
- Changes in the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities at FVTPL are recognised in profit or loss.
- All derivatives (including separated embedded derivatives) are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

Recognition of interest

- Interest income and interest expense are calculated using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is calculated on initial recognition based on estimated cash flows considering all of the contractual terms of the financial instrument but excluding future credit losses. For floating rate instruments, the effective interest rate is updated to reflect movements in market rates of interest.

Impairment of financial assets

- An entity assesses whether there is objective evidence of impairment of financial assets not measured at FVTPL. When there is objective evidence of impairment, any impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.
- Objective evidence of impairment arises from loss events that have occurred after initial recognition of the financial asset that have an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the asset.
- For investments in equity instruments, a significant or prolonged decline in fair value below cost is also objective evidence of impairment. Impairment losses on equity instruments cannot be reversed.
- Objective evidence of impairment is assessed individually for assets that are individually significant and collectively for other assets. A collective assessment is also performed for assets for which no objective evidence of impairment has been identified on an individual basis.
- The measurement of impairment depends on whether a financial asset is measured at amortised cost (i.e. classified as loans and receivables or held-to-maturity) or classified as available-for-sale.

71.7 Hedge accounting

Currently effective: IAS 39, IFRIC 16

Introduction

- Hedge accounting allows an entity to measure assets, liabilities and firm commitments selectively on a basis different from that otherwise stipulated in IFRS or to defer the recognition in profit or loss of gains or losses on derivatives.
- Hedge accounting is voluntary. However, it is permitted only when strict requirements on documentation and effectiveness are met.

Hedge accounting models

- There are three hedge accounting models:
 - fair value hedges of fair value exposures;
 - cash flow hedges of cash flow exposures; and
 - net investment hedges of foreign currency exposures on net investments in foreign operations.

Qualifying hedged items

- Qualifying hedged items can be:
 - recognised assets or liabilities;
 - unrecognised firm commitments;
 - highly probable forecast transactions; or
 - net investments in foreign operations.

Qualifying hedging instruments

- In general, only derivative instruments entered into with an external party qualify as hedging instruments.
- However, for hedges of foreign exchange risk only, non-derivative financial instruments may qualify as hedging instruments.

Qualifying hedged risks

- The hedged risk should be one that could affect profit or loss.

Effectiveness testing

- Effectiveness testing is conducted on both a prospective and a retrospective basis. In order for a hedge to be highly effective, changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk should be offset by changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedging instrument within a range of 80–125 percent.

Discontinuing hedge accounting

- Hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively if:
 - the hedged transaction is no longer highly probable;
 - the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised;
 - the hedged item is sold, settled or otherwise disposed of;
 - the hedge is no longer highly effective; or
 - the entity revokes the designation.

71.8 Presentation and disclosures

Currently effective: IFRS 7

Related standards: IFRS 13, IAS 1, IAS 32

Offsetting

- A financial asset and a financial liability are offset only when the entity:
 - currently has a legally enforceable right to set off; and
 - has an intention to settle net or to settle both amounts simultaneously.

Disclosure objectives

- An entity is required to disclose information that enables users to evaluate:
 - the significance of financial instruments for the entity's financial position and performance; and
 - the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments and how the entity manages those risks.

Significance of financial instruments for financial position and performance

- Specific disclosure requirements include information on:
 - carrying amounts;
 - fair values;
 - items designated as at fair value through profit or loss;
 - reclassification of financial assets between categories;
 - offsetting of financial assets and financial liabilities and the effect of potential netting arrangements;
 - collateral; and
 - hedge accounting.

Nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments

- Disclosure of both qualitative and quantitative information is required.
- Qualitative disclosures describe management's objectives, policies and processes for managing risks arising from financial instruments.
- Quantitative data about the exposure to risks arising from financial instruments is based on information provided internally to key management. Additionally, certain disclosures about the entity's exposures to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk arising from financial instruments are required, irrespective of whether this information is provided to management.

Transfers of financial assets

- Information is provided about financial assets that are not derecognised in their entirety.
- Information is provided about financial assets that are derecognised in their entirety but in which the entity has a continuing involvement.

8 Insurance contracts

8.1 Insurance contracts

Currently effective: IFRS 4

Forthcoming: IFRS 17

Scope

- An insurance contract is a contract that transfers significant insurance risk. Insurance risk is 'significant' if an insured event could cause an insurer to pay significant additional benefits in any scenario, excluding those that lack commercial substance.
- A financial instrument that does not meet the definition of an insurance contract (including investments held to back insurance liabilities) is accounted for under the general recognition and measurement requirements for financial instruments (see sections 7 and 7I).
- Financial instruments that include discretionary participation features are in the scope of the standard – i.e. existing accounting policies may be applied, although these are subject to the general financial instrument disclosures (see 7.10 and 7I.8).

Recognition and measurement

- Generally, entities that issue insurance contracts are required to continue their existing accounting policies with respect to insurance contracts except when the standard requires or permits changes in accounting policies.
- Changes in existing accounting policies for insurance contracts are permitted only if the new policy, or a combination of new policies, results in information that is more relevant or reliable, or both, without reducing either relevance or reliability.
- The recognition of catastrophe and equalisation provisions is prohibited for contracts not in existence at the reporting date.
- A liability adequacy test is required to ensure that the measurement of an entity's insurance liabilities considers all contractual cash flows, using current estimates.
- The application of 'shadow accounting' for insurance liabilities is permitted for consistency with the treatment of unrealised gains or losses on assets.

Insurance contracts acquired in a business combination

- An expanded presentation of the fair value of insurance contracts acquired in a business combination or portfolio transfer is permitted.

Presentation and disclosures

- Significant disclosures are required of the terms, conditions and risks related to insurance contracts, consistent in principle with those required for financial assets and financial liabilities.

8.1A Insurance contracts: IFRS 17

Forthcoming: IFRS 17

IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts* is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2021. Early adoption is permitted if IFRS 9 (see [section 7](#)) and IFRS 15 (see [4.2](#)) are also adopted.

Scope

- An insurance contract is a contract that transfers significant insurance risk. Insurance risk is ‘significant’ if an insured event could cause an insurer to pay significant additional benefits in any scenario, excluding those that lack commercial substance.
- A financial instrument that does not meet the definition of an insurance contract (including investments held to back insurance liabilities) is accounted for under the general recognition and measurement requirements for financial instruments (see [section 7](#)).
- Investment contracts that include discretionary participation features are in the scope of the standard, provided that the entity also issues insurance contracts.

The general measurement model – Initial recognition

- On initial recognition, the liability of a group of insurance contracts is made up of the following components.
 - The fulfilment cash flows, which represent the risk-adjusted present value of the future cash flows, comprising estimates of future cash flows, discounting and a risk adjustment for non-financial risk.
 - The contractual service margin (CSM), which represents the unearned profit that the entity will recognise as it provides services over the coverage period.
- Fulfilment cash flows representing a net outflow on initial recognition are recognised as an immediate loss.

The general measurement model – Subsequent measurement

- Subsequent to initial recognition, the liability of a group of insurance contracts comprises the liability for remaining coverage (fulfilment cash flows and the CSM) and the liability for incurred claims (fulfilment cash flows for claims and expenses already incurred but not yet paid).
- The fulfilment cash flows are remeasured at each reporting date to reflect current estimates. Generally, the changes in the fulfilment cash flows are treated in a number of ways:
 - changes in the effect of the time value of money and financial risk are reflected in the statement of profit and loss and OCI;
 - changes related to past and current service are recognised in profit or loss; and
 - changes related to future service adjust the CSM.

A simplified approach and modifications to the general measurement model

- When certain criteria are met, an entity may use a simplified approach – the premium allocation approach.
- The general measurement model is modified when applied to:
 - reinsurance contracts held;
 - direct participating contracts; and
 - investment contracts with discretionary participation features.

Presentation

- Insurance revenue is derived from the changes in the liability for remaining coverage for each reporting period that relate to services for which the entity expects to receive consideration.
- Investment components are excluded from insurance revenue and insurance service expenses.
- Insurance service results are presented separately from insurance finance income or expense.
- Entities can choose to disaggregate insurance finance income or expense between profit or loss and OCI.

Transition

- Full retrospective application is required – however, if it is impracticable, a modified retrospective approach and a fair value approach are available.
- Limited ability to redesignate some financial assets on initial application of IFRS 17.

Appendix I

New standards or amendments for 2018 and forthcoming requirements

Since the September 2017 edition of this overview, a number of standards, amendments to or interpretations of standards have been issued. This Appendix lists these new pronouncements in issue at 1 August 2018, which were not yet effective for periods beginning on 1 January 2017 and therefore may need to be considered for the first time when preparing IFRS financial statements for an annual period beginning on 1 January 2018.

New currently effective requirements

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Chapter in this overview (other KPMG guidance)
1 January 2018	IFRS 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 3.12, 4.2, 5.1, 5.7, 5.9, 5.12, 6.1 Web article (with links to in-depth analysis)
	IFRS 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	6.1, 7.1–7.11, 8.1 Web article (with links to in-depth analysis)
	<i>Classification and Measurement of Share-based Payment Transactions – Amendments to IFRS 2</i>	4.5 Web article
	<i>Applying IFRS 9 Financial Instruments with IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts – Amendments to IFRS 4</i>	6.1, 7.11, 8.1 Web article
	<i>Transfers of Investment Property – Amendments to IAS 40</i>	3.4 Web article

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Chapter in this overview (other KPMG guidance)
1 January 2018 (continued)	<i>Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2014–2016 Cycle – Amendments to IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of IFRSs and IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i>	3.5, 5.6, 6.1 Web article
	<i>IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration</i>	2.7, 6.1 Web article
March 2018	<i>Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (revised)</i>	1.2 Web article

Forthcoming requirements

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Chapter in this overview (other KPMG guidance)
1 January 2019	IFRS 16 <i>Leases</i> ¹	2.6, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.2, 4.6, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1 Web article (with links to in-depth analysis)
	IFRIC 23 <i>Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments</i>	3.13 Web article
	<i>Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures – Amendments to IAS 28</i>	3.5 Web article
	<i>Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2015–2017 Cycle – Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations, IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements, IAS 12 Income taxes and IAS 23 Borrowing Costs</i>	2.6, 3.6, 3.13, 4.6 Web article
	<i>Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement – Amendments to IAS 19</i>	4.4 Web article
	<i>Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation – Amendments to IFRS 9</i>	7.4, 7.11 Web article
1 January 2020	<i>Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards</i>	2.8 Web article
1 January 2021	IFRS 17 <i>Insurance Contracts</i> ²	8.1A Web article (with links to in-depth analysis)

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Chapter in this overview (other KPMG guidance)
To be determined	<i>Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture – Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28³</i>	2.5, 3.5 Web article

1. Early application of IFRS 16 *Leases* is permitted only for companies that also apply IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.
2. Early application of IFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts* is permitted only for companies that also apply IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* and IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.
3. The effective date for these amendments was deferred indefinitely. Early adoption continues to be permitted.

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Publication name: *Insights into IFRS: An overview*

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