

IFRS News

Quarter 3 2019

IFRS news is your quarterly update on things relating to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). We'll bring you up to speed on topical issues and significant developments, provide comments and give our point of view.

We begin this edition by considering the current IASB Exposure Drafts that are out for comment and conclude with IFRS-related news at Grant Thornton.

If you would like to view a list of the new Standards and Interpretations and their effective dates, please visit [ifrs.org](https://www.ifrs.org) or follow the links below:

- [Standard-setting projects](#)
- [Research, maintenance and other projects](#)
- [Completed agenda decisions](#)

A list of the documents currently out for comment by the IASB and their respective comment deadlines is also available at [ifrs.org](https://www.ifrs.org).

We are currently finalising a new publications strategy for 2020 and as a result some of our publications will change in the upcoming months. Watch this space!



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Proposed amendments to IFRS 17 ‘Insurance contracts’

The IASB has published an Exposure draft (ED) ‘Amendments to IFRS 17’. The amendments are a response to challenges and concerns raised by stakeholders as they implement IFRS 17.

The following table summarises the proposed amendments in the ED:

Topic	Proposed amendment
Scope exclusions	<p>The ED proposes that an entity would be required to exclude from the scope of IFRS 17 credit card contracts that meet the definition of an insurance contract if, and only if, the entity does not reflect an assessment of the insurance risk associated with an individual customer in setting the price of the contract with that customer.</p>
‘credit cards that provide insurance coverage for purchases made’	<p>If not excluded from the scope of IFRS 17 through the scope exclusions, the ED proposes that an entity would choose to apply IFRS 17 or IFRS 9 to contracts that meet the definition of an insurance contract but limit the compensation for insured events to the amount required to settle the policyholder’s obligation created by the contract (for example, loans with death waivers). The entity would be required to make that choice for each portfolio of insurance contracts, and the choice for each portfolio would be irrevocable.</p>

Topic	Proposed amendment
Expected recovery of insurance acquisition cash flows	<p>The amendments propose that an entity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allocate, on a systematic and rational basis, insurance acquisition cash flows that are directly attributable to a group of insurance contracts to that group and to any groups that include contracts that are expected to arise from renewals of the contracts in that group • recognise as an asset insurance acquisition cash flows paid before the group of insurance contracts to which they are allocated is recognised • assess the recoverability of an asset for insurance acquisition cash flows if facts and circumstances indicate the asset may be impaired.
<p>‘avoids the presentation of insurance contracts as loss making on initial recognition’</p>	
Contractual service margin attributable to investment-return service and investment-related service	<p>The amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • propose that an entity identify coverage units for insurance contracts without direct participation features considering the quantity of benefits and expected period of investment-return service, if any, in addition to insurance coverage • specify criteria for when contracts may provide an investment-return service • clarify that an entity is required to identify coverage units for insurance contracts with direct participation features considering the quantity of benefits and expected period of both insurance coverage and investment-related service • propose that an entity disclose quantitative information about when the entity expects to recognise in profit or loss the contractual service margin remaining at the end of a reporting period. In addition, propose an entity disclose the approach used to determine the relative weighting of the benefits provided by insurance coverage and investment-return service or investment-related service.
Reinsurance contracts held — recovery of losses on underlying insurance contracts	<p>The ED proposes that an entity adjust the contractual service margin of a group of reinsurance contracts held that provides proportionate coverage, and as a result recognise income, when the entity recognises a loss on initial recognition of an onerous group of underlying insurance contracts, or on addition of onerous contracts to that group. The amount of the adjustment and resulting income is determined by multiplying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the loss recognised on the group of underlying insurance contracts • the fixed percentage of claims on the group of underlying contracts the entity has a right to recover from the group of reinsurance contracts held.
Presentation in the statement of financial position	<p>The proposed amendment would require an entity to present separately in the statement of financial position the carrying amount of portfolios of insurance contracts issued that are assets and those that are liabilities. Applying the existing requirements, an entity would present the carrying amount of groups of insurance contracts issued that are assets and those that are liabilities. The amendment would also apply to portfolios of reinsurance contracts held that are assets and those that are liabilities.</p>
Applicability of the risk mitigation option	<p>The proposed amendment would extend the risk mitigation option available when an entity uses derivatives to mitigate financial risk arising from insurance contracts with direct participation features. That option would apply in circumstances when an entity uses reinsurance contracts held to mitigate financial risk arising from insurance contracts with direct participation features.</p>
Effective date of IFRS 17 and the IFRS 9 Financial Instruments temporary exemption	<p>The proposals defer the effective date of IFRS 17 by one year from annual reporting periods beginning on or after 2021 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 2022. The proposals also extend the temporary exemption (included in IFRS 4) from IFRS 9 by one year so that an entity applying the exemption would be required to apply IFRS 9 for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022.</p>

Topic	Proposed amendment
Transition modifications and reliefs	<p>The amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • propose an additional modification in the modified retrospective approach. The modification would require an entity, to the extent permitted by paragraph C8, to classify as a liability for incurred claims a liability for settlement of claims incurred before an insurance contract was acquired. They also propose that an entity applying the fair value approach could choose to classify such a liability as a liability for incurred claims • permit an entity to apply the option in paragraph B115 prospectively from the transition date, rather than the date of initial application. The amendment proposes that to apply the option in paragraph B115 prospectively on or after the transition date, an entity would be required to designate risk mitigation relationships at or before the date it applies the option • propose that an entity that can apply IFRS 17 retrospectively to a group of insurance contracts be permitted to instead apply the fair value approach to that group if it meets specified criteria relating to risk mitigation.
Minor amendments	<p>Minor amendments have been proposed where the drafting of IFRS 17 does not achieve the Board's intended outcome. These are on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope and investment contracts with discretionary participation features • Recognition of contracts within a group • Business combinations outside the scope of IFRS 3 • Adjusting the loss component for changes in the risk adjustment for non-financial risk • Disclosure of investment components excluded from insurance revenue and insurance service expenses • Risk adjustment for non-financial risk in disclosure requirements • Disclosure of sensitivity analysis • Definition of an investment component • Excluding changes relating to the time value of money and assumptions that relate to financial risk from changes in the carrying amount of the contractual service margin • Changes in the risk adjustment for non-financial risk • Use of the risk mitigation option • Excluding changes from cash flows relating to loans to policyholders from revenue • Treatment of changes in underlying items • Amendment to IFRS 3 'Business Combinations' • Amendment to IFRS 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures', IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' and IAS 32 'Financial Instruments: Presentation'.

The amendments would be applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022.

New annual improvements proposals published

The IASB has published an Exposure Draft (ED) ‘Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020 Cycle’ which proposes minor amendments to four Standards.

The proposals are the latest under the IASB’s annual improvements project, a process for making non-urgent, but necessary, minor amendments to IFRS. A summary of the proposals, which reflect issues discussed by the IASB in a project cycle that began in 2018, is set out in the table below.

Standard	Issue	Proposed change
IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards	Subsidiary as a first-time adopter	<p>The proposal extends the exemption in paragraph D16(a) to cumulative translation differences reported by a subsidiary that becomes a first-time adopter later than its parent.</p> <p>The ED proposes to require a subsidiary that elects to apply paragraph D16(a) of IFRS 1 ‘First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards’ to measure cumulative translation differences using the amounts reported by the parent, based on the parent’s date of transition to IFRSs. This means a subsidiary will not have to keep two parallel sets of accounting records based on different dates of transition to IFRS.</p> <p>This proposed amendment would also apply to an associate or joint venture that elects to apply paragraph D16(a) of IFRS 1.</p>
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments	Fees included in the ‘10 per cent’ test for derecognition of financial liabilities	<p>In determining whether to derecognise a financial liability that has been modified or exchanged, an entity assesses whether the terms are substantially different by reference to the ‘10 percent test’.</p> <p>The ED proposes to clarify the fees that an entity includes when applying that test.</p> <p>The proposals state that a borrower should include only fees paid or received between the borrower and the lender, including fees paid or received by either the borrower or lender on the other’s behalf.</p>
Illustrative Examples accompanying IFRS 16 Leases	Lease incentives	<p>The Board proposes to amend Illustrative Example 13 that accompanies IFRS 16 ‘Leases’ to remove the illustration of payments from the lessor relating to leasehold improvements.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would remove the potential confusion regarding the treatment of lease incentives when applying IFRS 16.</p>
IAS 41 Agriculture	Taxation in fair value measurements	<p>The Board proposes to remove the requirement in paragraph 22 of IAS 41 ‘Agriculture’ for entities to exclude cash flows for taxation when measuring fair value and applying the requirements of IAS 41.</p>

IASB proposes changes to IFRS 3

The IASB has published an Exposure Draft (ED) ‘References to the Conceptual Framework (Proposed amendments to IFRS 3)’, which intends to update IFRS 3 for the new conceptual framework.

The first proposed amendment is to update IFRS 3 so it refers to the 2018 Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting instead of the old version issued in 1989 (‘Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements’). Currently, the requirements in IFRS 3 state that the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired in a business combination must meet the definitions of assets and liabilities in the 1989 version. The Board intends to replace this reference with that of the 2018 version.

The revised Conceptual Framework introduces changes to the definitions of assets and liabilities. Although both definitions have worked well in the past, the revised definitions focus more on describing an asset as an economic resource and a liability as an obligation to transfer an economic resource rather than describing both in terms of an expected flow of benefits. The change is significant as the notion of an ‘expected’ flow of benefits had previously been interpreted by some as a probability threshold.

The main impact of this change in IFRS 3 is that the population of assets and liabilities qualifying for recognition in a business combination may change. Some might qualify for recognition when previously they did not, and then could subsequently require derecognition when applying other standards after the acquisition date. The acquirer would therefore need to recognise them at the acquisition date and derecognise them straight afterwards. Therefore, potentially resulting in a ‘day 2’ gain or loss.

The Board has therefore proposed a second amendment to avoid the problems associated with a ‘day 2’ loss. The Board has concluded that these gains or losses would be significant in practice for liabilities that are accounted for after the acquisition date through applying IAS 37 ‘Provisions, Contingent liabilities and Contingent Assets’, or IFRIC 21 ‘Levies’. The proposed solution is to add a recognition exception to IFRS 3. For liabilities and contingent liabilities that if incurred separately entities would apply IAS 37 or IFRIC 21, the acquirer should apply IAS 37 or IFRIC 21 instead of the conceptual framework to ascertain what liabilities and contingent liabilities it has undertaken from a business combination. Applying this exception would mean that the IFRS 3 liabilities and contingent liabilities would be unchanged compared to now.

The final proposal is to make an explicit statement about contingent assets in IFRS 3. Contingent assets are prohibited from recognition under IFRS 3, however currently this is only stated in the Basis for Conclusions. The amendments propose to add a statement in the actual Standard that an acquirer should not recognise contingent assets acquired in a business combination.

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IASB proposes changes to IAS 12

The IASB has published an Exposure Draft (ED) ‘Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction’ which proposes to make amendments to IAS 12 ‘Income Taxes’. The changes aim to clarify how to account for deferred tax on transactions that an entity recognises both an asset and a liability, for example, leases or decommissioning obligations.

The IFRS Interpretations Committee received a request to confirm whether the initial recognition exemption in IAS 12 can be applied to leases (where both an asset and liability is recognised at commencement of the lease) and decommissioning liabilities (where decommissioning costs are included in the cost of property, plant and equipment and a liability is recognised). In both of these situations, the transaction will result in both an asset and a liability being recognised, and the request asked whether an entity is required to recognise deferred tax for such transactions.

The initial recognition exemption allows relief from recognising a deferred tax asset or deferred tax liability for the initial recognition of:

- goodwill, and
- an asset or liability in a transaction which
 - is not a business combination
 - at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting profit (loss) nor taxable profit (loss).

The Committee noted that there is diversity of views as to whether this exemption would cover these transactions and decided to recommend an amendment to IAS 12 to narrow the recognition exemption so that it is clear that the exemption would not apply in these cases.

The amendments propose changes to the initial recognition exemption. These changes will mean the initial recognition exemption would not apply to transactions in which (on initial recognition) both deductible and taxable temporary differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities of the same amount. This results in, for example, on initial recognition of a right-of-use asset and lease liability, a deferred tax asset and deferred tax liability would need to be recognised even if these deferred assets and liabilities are of the same amount.

The proposals would be applied retrospectively, with early adoption permitted. The Board have not yet proposed an effective date of these amendments.

Disclosure of Accounting Policies

The IASB has published an Exposure Draft (ED) ‘Disclosure of Accounting Policies’ which proposes changes to IAS 1 ‘Presentation of Financial Statements’ and IFRS Practice Statement 2 ‘Making material judgements’. The aim of these amendments is to assist entities in deciding which accounting policies to disclose and to make them more useful.

This ED builds on the amendments issued in October 2018 titled ‘Definition of Material’ which made changes to IAS 1 and IAS 8 and is part of the broader Principles of Disclosure project.

IAS 1 currently requires entities to disclose their significant accounting policies, however does not define the word significant. Whilst it is agreed the application of materiality is key when determining what accounting policies to disclose, IAS 1 doesn’t require material accounting policies to be disclosed. This implies that there could be a material accounting policy which, if not deemed to be significant, need not be disclosed. The Board has therefore decided to amend IAS 1, and proposes to change the term ‘significant’ accounting policies to ‘material’ accounting policies.

In addition, the ED includes paragraphs 117A to 117D to IAS 1, which:

- clarify that immaterial transactions, other events or immaterial conditions do not need to be disclosed
- explain how an entity can identify material accounting policies
- explain that information about accounting policies that focuses on how the Standard has been applied to specific circumstances is more useful than descriptions of accounting policies which just explain the requirements of a Standard
- confirm that even if an accounting policy is concluded to be immaterial, other information required by other standards should still be disclosed if that information is material.

The ED also proposes to amend ‘Practice Statement 2: Making Material Judgements’ with two examples that illustrate how to apply the concept of materiality when making decisions about accounting policy disclosures.

The ED does not propose an effective date (which will be determined at a later date), however states that the changes would be applied prospectively with early adoption permitted.

Grant Thornton news

Jake Green appointed to IFRS Interpretations Committee



Jake Green, a technical partner in the UK firm, has been appointed to the IFRS Interpretations Committee, effective 1 July 2019, for a period of three years.

The IFRS Interpretations Committee is the interpretative body of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). The Interpretations Committee works with the IASB in supporting the application of IFRS Standards.

Congratulations to Jake on his appointment!

2019 Example Financial Statements released

The global IFRS Team has released the 2019 version of its 'IFRS Example Consolidated Financial Statements'.

The Example Consolidated Financial Statements are based on the activities and results of Illustrative Corporation and subsidiaries – a fictional consulting, service and retail entity that has been preparing IFRS financial statements for several years. The objective in preparing these Example Consolidated Financial Statements is to illustrate one possible approach to financial reporting by an entity engaging in transactions that are typical across a range of non-specialist sectors.

The publication has been reviewed and updated to reflect changes in IFRS that are effective for the year ending 31 December 2019. In particular, it reflects the adoption of IFRS 16 'Leases' which is effective for annual accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

You can access the publication by going to <https://www.grantthornton.global/en/insights/articles/example-financial-statements-2019/>. Alternatively, please get in touch with the IFRS contact in your local Grant Thornton office.



Insights into IFRS 16

IFRS 16 ‘Leasing’, which is effective from 1 January 2019, brings fundamental changes to lease accounting. It requires lessees to account for leases ‘on-balance sheet’ by recognising a ‘right-of-use’ asset and a lease liability.

Grant Thornton International Ltd’s ‘Insights into IFRS 16’ series summaries key areas of the Standard and aims to assist you in preparing for the changes that you will need to make. One new issue has been released in the last quarter, which is described below. You can access these at <https://www.grantthornton.global/en/insights/ifrs-16>.

Issue 8: Presentation and disclosure

IFRS 16 requires lessees and lessors to provide information about leasing activities within their financial statements. The Standard explains how this information should be presented on the face of the statements and what disclosures are required. In this article we identify the requirements and provide a series of examples illustrating one possible way the note disclosures might be presented.



Mark Hucklesby wins CPA award



Mark Hucklesby, (pictured right), receiving his award from Mat Croud, New Zealand president of CPA Australia

Mark Hucklesby, a partner of our New Zealand member firm, has won CPA Australia’s Divisional award for Excellence in Service and Leadership.

The CPA Australia Divisional President’s Awards for Excellence in Service and Leadership is highly prestigious award which recognises contributions over and above what might be expected in our industry. For a number of years Mark has been a keynote speaker at CPA Australia’s Annual Congress – one of New Zealand’s largest professional accounting events – commenting and highlighting on a wide range of topics. Congratulations to Mark on this excellent achievement.



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