

February 2021

IFRS® Standards

Disclosure of Accounting Policies

Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2

IASB®

 IFRS®

Disclosure of Accounting Policies

Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice
Statement 2

Disclosure of Accounting Policies, which amends IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements* is issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (Board).

Disclaimer: To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Board and the IFRS Foundation (Foundation) expressly disclaim all liability howsoever arising from this publication or any translation thereof whether in contract, tort or otherwise to any person in respect of any claims or losses of any nature including direct, indirect, incidental or consequential loss, punitive damages, penalties or costs.

Information contained in this publication does not constitute advice and should not be substituted for the services of an appropriately qualified professional.

ISBN: 978-1-91411305-5

© 2021 IFRS Foundation

All rights reserved. Reproduction and use rights are strictly limited. Please contact the Foundation for further details at permissions@ifrs.org.

Copies of Board publications may be ordered from the Foundation by emailing customerservices@ifrs.org or visiting our shop at <https://shop.ifrs.org>.



The Foundation has trade marks registered around the world including 'IAS[®]', 'IASB[®]', the IASB[®] logo, 'IFRIC[®]', 'IFRS[®]', the IFRS[®] logo, 'IFRS for SMEs[®]', the IFRS for SMEs[®] logo, the 'Hexagon Device', 'International Accounting Standards[®]', 'International Financial Reporting Standards[®]', 'NIIF[®]' and 'SIC[®]'. Further details of the Foundation's trade marks are available from the Foundation on request.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation under the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, USA and operates in England and Wales as an overseas company (Company number: FC023235) with its principal office in the Columbus Building, 7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HD.

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

CONTENTS

| | <i>from page</i> |
|--|------------------|
| AMENDMENTS TO IAS 1 <i>PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</i> | 4 |
| AMENDMENTS TO IFRS PRACTICE STATEMENT 2 <i>MAKING MATERIALITY JUDGEMENTS</i> | 8 |
| APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF <i>DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES</i> ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 2021 | 17 |
| AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS ON IAS 1 | 18 |
| AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS ON IFRS PRACTICE STATEMENT 2 | 23 |
| DISSENTING OPINION | 25 |
| AMENDMENTS TO OTHER IFRS STANDARDS AND PUBLICATIONS | 27 |

Amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

Paragraphs 7, 10, 114, 117 and 122 are amended. Paragraphs 117A–117E and 139V are added. Paragraphs 118, 119 and 121 are deleted. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Definitions

7 The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:

Accounting policies are defined in paragraph 5 of IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, and the term is used in this Standard with the same meaning.

...

Financial statements

...

Complete set of financial statements

10 A complete set of financial statements comprises:

...

(e) notes, comprising material significant—accounting policy information policies and other explanatory information;

...

Structure and content

...

Notes

Structure

...

114 Examples of systematic ordering or grouping of the notes include:

...

(c) following the order of the line items in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and the statement of financial position, such as:

...

(ii) material significant—accounting policy information policies applied (see paragraph 117);

...

Disclosure of accounting policy information policies

- 117 An entity shall disclose material ~~its significant~~ accounting policy information (see paragraph 7). Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements. ~~policies comprising:~~
- (a) ~~the measurement basis (or bases) used in preparing the financial statements; and~~
 - (b) ~~the other accounting policies used that are relevant to an understanding of the financial statements.~~
- 117A Accounting policy information that relates to immaterial transactions, other events or conditions is immaterial and need not be disclosed. Accounting policy information may nevertheless be material because of the nature of the related transactions, other events or conditions, even if the amounts are immaterial. However, not all accounting policy information relating to material transactions, other events or conditions is itself material.
- 117B Accounting policy information is expected to be material if users of an entity's financial statements would need it to understand other material information in the financial statements. For example, an entity is likely to consider accounting policy information material to its financial statements if that information relates to material transactions, other events or conditions and:
- (a) the entity changed its accounting policy during the reporting period and this change resulted in a material change to the information in the financial statements;
 - (b) the entity chose the accounting policy from one or more options permitted by IFRSs – such a situation could arise if the entity chose to measure investment property at historical cost rather than fair value;
 - (c) the accounting policy was developed in accordance with IAS 8 in the absence of an IFRS that specifically applies;
 - (d) the accounting policy relates to an area for which an entity is required to make significant judgements or assumptions in applying an accounting policy, and the entity discloses those judgements or assumptions in accordance with paragraphs 122 and 125; or
 - (e) the accounting required for them is complex and users of the entity's financial statements would otherwise not understand those material transactions, other events or conditions – such a situation could arise if an entity applies more than one IFRS to a class of material transactions.

- 117C Accounting policy information that focuses on how an entity has applied the requirements of the IFRSs to its own circumstances provides entity-specific information that is more useful to users of financial statements than standardised information, or information that only duplicates or summarises the requirements of the IFRSs.
- 117D If an entity discloses immaterial accounting policy information, such information shall not obscure material accounting policy information.
- 117E An entity’s conclusion that accounting policy information is immaterial does not affect the related disclosure requirements set out in other IFRSs.
- 118 ~~[Deleted]It is important for an entity to inform users of the measurement basis or bases used in the financial statements (for example, historical cost, current cost, net realisable value, fair value or recoverable amount) because the basis on which an entity prepares the financial statements significantly affects users’ analysis. When an entity uses more than one measurement basis in the financial statements, for example when particular classes of assets are revalued, it is sufficient to provide an indication of the categories of assets and liabilities to which each measurement basis is applied.~~
- 119 ~~[Deleted]In deciding whether a particular accounting policy should be disclosed, management considers whether disclosure would assist users in understanding how transactions, other events and conditions are reflected in reported financial performance and financial position. Each entity considers the nature of its operations and the policies that the users of its financial statements would expect to be disclosed for that type of entity. Disclosure of particular accounting policies is especially useful to users when those policies are selected from alternatives allowed in IFRSs. An example is disclosure of whether an entity applies the fair value or cost model to its investment property (see IAS 40 *Investment Property*). Some IFRSs specifically require disclosure of particular accounting policies, including choices made by management between different policies they allow. For example, IAS 16 requires disclosure of the measurement bases used for classes of property, plant and equipment.~~
- 120 ~~[Deleted]~~
- 121 ~~[Deleted]An accounting policy may be significant because of the nature of the entity’s operations even if amounts for current and prior periods are not material. It is also appropriate to disclose each significant accounting policy that is not specifically required by IFRSs but the entity selects and applies in accordance with IAS 8.~~
- 122 An entity shall disclose, along with **material its significant** accounting **policy information policies** or other notes, the judgements, apart from those involving estimations (see paragraph 125), that management has made in the process of applying the entity’s accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.
- ...

Transition and effective date

...

139V *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*, issued in February 2021, amended paragraphs 7, 10, 114, 117 and 122, added paragraphs 117A–117E and deleted paragraphs 118, 119 and 121. It also amended IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements*. An entity shall apply the amendments to IAS 1 for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Amendments to IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements*

Paragraphs 88A–88G and their heading, and Examples S and T, are added. Paragraphs 117, 117A, 117B, 117C, 117D and 117E of IAS 1 are added to the Appendix. For ease of reading new text is not underlined.

Specific topics

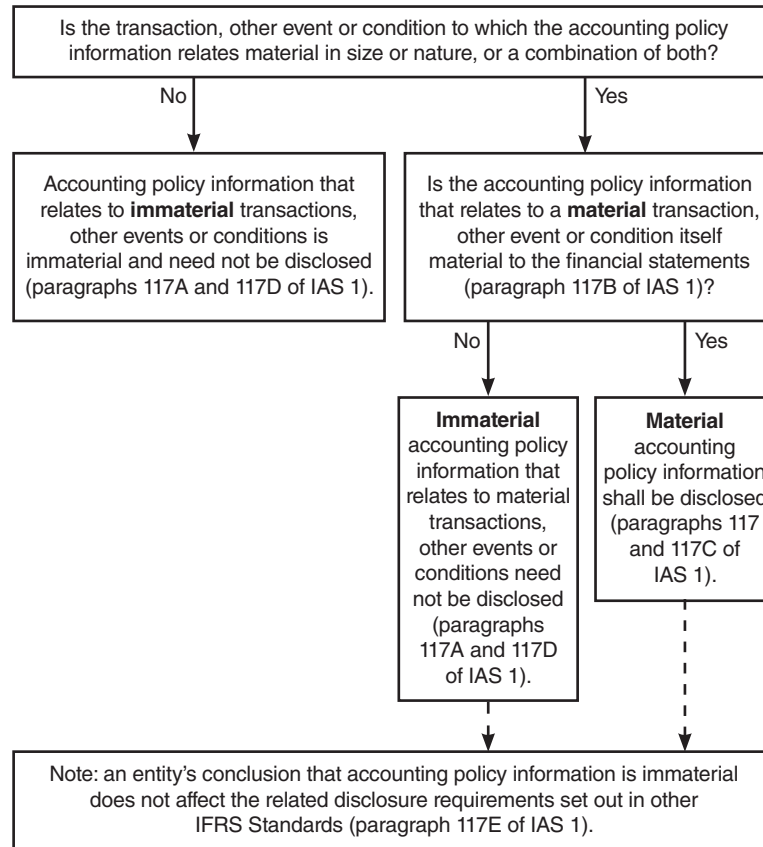
...

Information about accounting policies

- 88A Paragraph 117 of IAS 1 requires an entity to disclose material accounting policy information.
- 88B Accounting policy information relating to immaterial transactions, other events or conditions is immaterial and need not be disclosed. Accounting policy information may nevertheless be material because of the nature of the related transactions, other events or conditions, even if the amounts are immaterial. An entity is required to disclose accounting policy information relating to material transactions, other events or conditions if that information is material to the financial statements.
- 88C In assessing whether accounting policy information is material to its financial statements, an entity considers whether users of the entity's financial statements would need that information to understand other material information in the financial statements. An entity makes this assessment in the same way it assesses other information: by considering qualitative and quantitative factors, as described in paragraphs 44–55. Diagram 2 illustrates how an entity assesses whether accounting policy information is material and, therefore, shall be disclosed.

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Diagram 2 – determining whether accounting policy information is material



88D Paragraph 117B of IAS 1 includes examples of circumstances in which an entity is likely to consider accounting policy information to be material to its financial statements. The list is not exhaustive, but provides guidance on when an entity would normally consider accounting policy information to be material.

88E Paragraph 117C of IAS 1 describes the type of material accounting policy information that users of financial statements find most useful. Users generally find information about the characteristics of an entity's transactions, other events or conditions—entity-specific information—more useful than disclosures that only include standardised information, or information that duplicates or summarises the requirements of the IFRS Standards. Entity-specific accounting policy information is particularly useful when that information relates to an area for which an entity has exercised judgement—for example, when an entity applies an IFRS Standard differently from similar entities in the same industry.

88F Although entity-specific accounting policy information is generally more useful, material accounting policy information could sometimes include information that is standardised, or that duplicates or summarises the requirements of the IFRS Standards. Such information may be material if, for example:

- (a) users of the entity's financial statements need that information to understand other material information provided in the financial statements. Such a scenario might arise when an entity applying IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* has no choice regarding the classification of its financial instruments. In such scenarios, users of that entity's financial statements may only be able to understand how the entity has accounted for its material financial instruments if users also understand how the entity has applied the requirements of IFRS 9 to its financial instruments.
- (b) an entity reports in a jurisdiction in which entities also report applying local accounting standards.
- (c) the accounting required by the IFRS Standards is complex, and users of financial statements need to understand the required accounting. Such a scenario might arise when an entity accounts for a material class of transactions, other events or conditions by applying more than one IFRS Standard.

88G Paragraph 117D of IAS 1 states that if an entity discloses immaterial accounting policy information, such information shall not obscure material information. Paragraphs 56–59 provide guidance about how to communicate information clearly and concisely in the financial statements.

Example S—making materiality judgements and focusing on entity-specific information while avoiding standardised (boilerplate) accounting policy information

Background

An entity operates within the telecommunications industry. It has entered into contracts with retail customers to deliver mobile phone handsets and data services. In a typical contract, the entity provides a customer with a handset and data services over three years. The entity applies IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and recognises revenue when, or as, the entity satisfies its performance obligations in line with the terms of the contract.

The entity has identified two performance obligations and related considerations:

- (a) the handset—the customer makes monthly payments for the handset over three years; and
- (b) data—the customer pays a fixed monthly charge to use a specified monthly amount of data over three years.

continued...

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

...continued

For the handset, the entity concludes that it should recognise revenue when it satisfies the performance obligation (when it provides the handset to the customer). For the provision of data, the entity concludes that it should recognise revenue as it satisfies the performance obligation (as the entity provides data services to the customer over the three-year life of the contract).

The entity notes that, in accounting for revenue it has made judgements about:

- (a) the allocation of the transaction price to the performance obligations; and
- (b) the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations.

The entity has concluded that revenue generated from these contracts is material to the reporting period.

Application

The entity notes that for contracts of this type it applies separate accounting policies for two sources of revenue, namely revenue from:

- (a) the sale of handsets; and
- (b) the provision of data services.

Having identified revenue from contracts of this type as material to the financial statements, the entity assesses whether accounting policy information for revenue from these contracts is, in fact, material.

The entity evaluates the effect of disclosing the accounting policy information by considering the presence of qualitative factors. The entity noted that its revenue recognition accounting policies:

- (a) were unchanged during the reporting period;
- (b) were not chosen from accounting policy options available in the IFRS Standards;
- (c) were not developed in accordance with IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* in the absence of an IFRS Standard that specifically applies; and
- (d) are not so complex that primary users will be unable to understand the related revenue transactions without standardised descriptions of the requirements of IFRS 15.

However, some of the entity's revenue recognition accounting policies relate to an area for which the entity has made significant judgements in applying its accounting policies – for example, in deciding how to allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations, and the timing of revenue recognition.

continued...

...continued

The entity considers that, in addition to disclosing the information required by paragraphs 123–126 of IFRS 15 about the significant judgements made in applying IFRS 15, primary users of its financial statements are likely to need to understand related accounting policy information. Consequently, the entity concludes that such accounting policy information could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of the primary users of its financial statements. For example, understanding:

- (a) how the entity allocates the transaction price to its performance obligations is likely to help users understand how each component of the transaction contributes to the entity's revenue and cash flows; and
- (b) that some revenue is recognised at a point in time and some is recognised over time is likely to help users understand how reported cash flows relate to revenue.

The entity also notes that the judgements it made are specific to the entity. Consequently, material accounting policy information would include information about how the entity has applied the requirements of IFRS 15 to its specific circumstances.

The entity, therefore, assesses that accounting policy information about revenue recognition is material and should be disclosed. Such disclosure would include information about how the entity allocates the transaction price to its performance obligations and when the entity recognises revenue.

Example T—making materiality judgements on accounting policy information that only duplicates requirements in the IFRS Standards

Background

Property, plant and equipment are material to an entity's financial statements.

The entity has no intangible assets or goodwill and has not recognised an impairment loss on its property, plant or equipment in either the current or comparative reporting periods.

In previous reporting periods, the entity disclosed accounting policy information relating to impairment of non-current assets which duplicates the requirements of IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets* and provides no entity-specific information. The entity disclosed that:

continued...

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

...continued

The carrying amounts of the group's intangible assets and its property, plant and equipment are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For goodwill and intangibles with an indefinite useful life, the recoverable amount is estimated at least annually.

An impairment loss is recognised in the statement of profit or loss whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount of assets is the greater of their fair value less costs to sell and their value in use. In measuring value in use, estimated future cash flows are discounted to present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For an asset that does not generate largely independent cash inflows, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Impairment losses recognised in respect of cash-generating units are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to that cash-generating unit and then to reduce the carrying amount of the other assets in the unit on a pro rata basis.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not subsequently reversed. For other assets, an impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the new carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation and amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

Application

Having identified assets subject to impairment testing as being material to the financial statements, the entity assesses whether the accounting policy information for impairment is, in fact, material.

As part of its assessment, the entity considers that an impairment or a reversal of an impairment had not occurred in the current or comparative reporting periods. Consequently, accounting policy information about how the entity recognises and allocates impairment losses is unlikely to be material to its primary users. Similarly, because the entity has no intangible assets or goodwill, information about its accounting policy for impairments of intangible assets and goodwill is unlikely to provide its primary users with material information.

continued...

...continued

However, the entity's impairment accounting policy relates to an area for which the entity is required to make significant judgements or assumptions, as described in paragraphs 122 and 125 of IAS 1. Given the entity's specific circumstances, it concludes that information about its significant judgements and assumptions related to its impairment assessments could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of the primary users of the entity's financial statements. The entity notes that its disclosures about significant judgements and assumptions already include information about the significant judgements and assumptions used in its impairment assessments.

The entity decides that the primary users of its financial statements would be unlikely to need to understand the recognition and measurement requirements of IAS 36 to understand related information in the financial statements.

Consequently, the entity concludes that disclosing a summary of the requirements in IAS 36 in a separate accounting policy for impairment would not provide information that could reasonably be expected to influence decisions made by the primary users of its financial statements. Instead, the entity discloses material accounting policy information related to the significant judgements and assumptions the entity has applied in its impairment assessments elsewhere in the financial statements.

Although the entity assesses some accounting policy information for impairments of assets as immaterial, the entity still assesses whether other disclosure requirements of IAS 36 provide material information that should be disclosed.

...

Appendix
References to the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*
and IFRS Standards

...

Extracts from IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

...

Paragraph 117

Referred to in paragraphs 88A and 88C of the Practice Statement

An entity shall disclose material accounting policy information (see paragraph 7). Accounting policy information is material if, when considered together with other information included in an entity's financial statements, it can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements.

Paragraph 117A

Referred to in paragraph 88C of the Practice Statement

Accounting policy information that relates to immaterial transactions, other events or conditions is immaterial and need not be disclosed. Accounting policy information may nevertheless be material because of the nature of the related transactions, other events or conditions, even if the amounts are immaterial. However, not all accounting policy information relating to material transactions, other events or conditions is itself material.

Paragraph 117B

Referred to in paragraphs 88C and 88D of the Practice Statement

Accounting policy information is expected to be material if users of an entity's financial statements would need it to understand other material information in the financial statements. For example, an entity is likely to consider accounting policy information material to its financial statements if that information relates to material transactions, other events or conditions and:

- (a) the entity changed its accounting policy during the reporting period and this change resulted in a material change to the information in the financial statements;
- (b) the entity chose the accounting policy from one or more options permitted by IFRSs—such a situation could arise if the entity chose to measure investment property at historical cost rather than fair value;
- (c) the accounting policy was developed in accordance with IAS 8 in the absence of an IFRS that specifically applies;
- (d) the accounting policy relates to an area for which an entity is required to make significant judgements or assumptions in applying an accounting policy, and the entity discloses those judgements or assumptions in accordance with paragraphs 122 and 125; or

- (e) the accounting required for them is complex and users of the entity's financial statements would otherwise not understand those material transactions, other events or conditions—such a situation could arise if an entity applies more than one IFRS to a class of material transactions.

Paragraph 117C

Referred to in paragraphs 88C and 88E of the Practice Statement

Accounting policy information that focuses on how an entity has applied the requirements of the IFRSs to its own circumstances provides entity-specific information that is more useful to users of financial statements than standardised information, or information that only duplicates or summarises the requirements of the IFRSs.

Paragraph 117D

Referred to in paragraphs 88C and 88G of the Practice Statement

If an entity discloses immaterial accounting policy information, such information shall not obscure material accounting policy information.

Paragraph 117E

Referred to in paragraph 88C of the Practice Statement

An entity's conclusion that accounting policy information is immaterial does not affect the related disclosure requirements set out in other IFRSs.

...

**Approval by the Board of *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*
issued in February 2021**

Disclosure of Accounting Policies, which amends IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2, was approved for issue by 10 of 13 members of the International Accounting Standards Board (Board). Ms Flores dissented. Her dissent is set out after the Basis for Conclusions. Messrs Gast and Mackenzie abstained in view of their recent appointment to the Board.

Hans Hoogervorst Chairman

Suzanne Lloyd Vice-Chair

Nick Anderson

Tadeu Cendon

Martin Edelmann

Françoise Flores

Zach Gast

Jianqiao Lu

Bruce Mackenzie

Thomas Scott

Rika Suzuki

Ann Tarca

Mary Tokar

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on IAS 1

A footnote is added to the words ‘significant accounting policies’ in paragraphs BC76C and BC76F. New text is underlined.

* *Disclosure of Accounting Policies, issued in February 2021, amended paragraphs 117–122 of IAS 1, which now refer to ‘material accounting policy information’.*

The heading above paragraph BC76F is amended. Paragraphs BC76H–BC76AB and their related headings are added. For ease of reading, new text is not underlined.

Notes

...

**Disclosure of accounting policy information policies
(paragraphs 117–~~117E~~124)**

BC76F ...

...

Disclosure of accounting policies (issued February 2021)

Background

BC76H In March 2017 the Board published the Discussion Paper *Disclosure Initiative – Principles of Disclosure* (Discussion Paper) to help it identify and address issues related to the disclosure of information in financial statements prepared by an entity applying IFRS Standards. One issue related to the disclosure of information about accounting policies.

BC76I The Discussion Paper noted that paragraph 117 of IAS 1 required entities to disclose their significant accounting policies and that stakeholders, including primary users of financial statements, differ in their views about what constitutes a significant accounting policy.

BC76J Feedback on the Discussion Paper suggested that the Board develop requirements and guidance to help entities make more effective accounting policy disclosures. Feedback from stakeholders suggested that materiality be the basis of such requirements or guidance.

BC76K In August 2019 the Board published the Exposure Draft *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*, which proposed to amend IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements*.

Replacing ‘significant’ with ‘material’

BC76L The Board found that, because ‘significant’ is not defined in IFRS Standards, entities can have difficulty assessing whether an accounting policy is ‘significant’. The Board also noted that entities can have difficulty understanding the difference, if any, between ‘significant’ and ‘material’

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

accounting policies. The Board considered developing a definition of 'significant', but concluded that this approach could have unintended consequences for other uses of the term 'significant' in IFRS Standards.

BC76M Because 'material' is defined in IFRS Standards and is well understood by stakeholders, the Board decided to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information instead of their significant accounting policies.

BC76N The Board observed that accounting policy information considered in isolation would rarely be assessed as material because it would be unlikely to influence the decisions of users of financial statements. However, accounting policy information may be considered material when that information is considered together with other information in a complete set of financial statements. In the Board's view, accounting policy information is expected to be material if its disclosure were needed for primary users to understand information provided about material transactions, other events or conditions in the financial statements.

Applying the definition of material to accounting policy disclosures

BC76O The Board received comments that:

- (a) accounting policy disclosures are useful to users of financial statements when they:
 - (i) relate to material transactions, other events or conditions; and
 - (ii) provide insight into how an entity has exercised judgement in selecting and applying accounting policies; and
- (b) users of financial statements find entity-specific information more useful than accounting policy disclosures that:
 - (i) contain standardised information, sometimes called boilerplate information; and
 - (ii) only duplicate or summarise the content of the recognition and measurement requirements of IFRS Standards.

BC76P To assist an entity in determining whether accounting policy information is material to its financial statements and to respond to the feedback described in paragraphs BC76J and BC76O, the Board added paragraphs to IAS 1 to:

- (a) clarify that not all accounting policy information relating to material transactions, other events or conditions is material (see paragraph 117A). The Board concluded that this amendment would help an entity reduce immaterial accounting policy disclosures in its financial statements.
- (b) provide examples of circumstances in which an entity would normally conclude that information about an accounting policy is material to its financial statements (see paragraph 117B). The examples listed in paragraph 117B are not exhaustive but the Board concluded that they would help an entity determine whether accounting policy information is material.

- (c) explain that entity-specific accounting policy information is more useful to users of financial statements than accounting policy information that is standardised, or that duplicates or summarises the requirements of IFRS Standards (see paragraph 117C). The Board concluded that this amendment would help an entity focus on disclosing accounting policy information that users have identified as the most useful.

BC76Q The definition of material (see paragraph 7) states that ‘materiality depends on the nature or magnitude of information, or both’. Consequently, in assessing whether accounting policy information is material, an entity is required to consider not just the size of the transactions, other events or conditions to which the accounting policy information relates, but also the nature of those transactions, other events or conditions. To clarify this point, the Board included in the amendments an explanation that accounting policy information can be judged material because of the nature of the related transactions, other events or conditions, even if the amounts to which that information relates are immaterial (see paragraph 117A).

BC76R Some respondents to the Exposure Draft said that sometimes accounting policy information that includes standardised information or that duplicates or summarises some of the requirements of IFRS Standards can provide users of financial statements with material information. In the Board’s view, accounting policy information that includes standardised information or that duplicates or summarises some of the requirements of IFRS Standards is generally less useful to users than entity-specific accounting policy information. However, the Board agreed that such accounting policy information is expected to be material if it is needed to understand other material information in the financial statements. The Board concluded that when such information is material, it is required to be disclosed.

BC76S Such information could be material, for example, when an entity judges the accounting required for a material transaction, other event or condition to be so complex that a primary user would be unable to understand the related material transaction, other event or condition in the absence of that information (see paragraph 117B(e)). The Board acknowledged that because the complexity of accounting required for particular transactions, other events or conditions is ultimately a subjective question, an entity will need to judge whether the relevant accounting is complex. However, the Board concluded that the guidance in the amendments would be sufficient for an entity, auditors, regulators and others to make appropriate judgements about the materiality of such information.

BC76T An entity is permitted to disclose accounting policy information that is standardised, or that duplicates or summarises the requirements of IFRS Standards, even when that information is assessed as immaterial. However, if an entity discloses such information, it shall not obscure material accounting policy information (see paragraph 117D).

DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BC76U The Board deleted the discussion of ‘measurement basis (or bases)’ in paragraphs 117 and 118. The Board did so to better enable preparers to apply judgement and thereby disclose only material accounting policy information. In many cases, information about the measurement basis (or bases) used in preparing the financial statements is material. However, in some cases, the measurement basis (or bases) used for a particular asset or liability would not be material and, therefore, would not need to be disclosed. For example, information about a measurement basis might be immaterial if:

- (a) an IFRS Standard required an entity to use a measurement basis—in which case an entity would not apply choice or judgement in complying with the Standard; and
- (b) information about the measurement basis would not be needed for users to understand the related material transactions, other events or conditions.

BC76V The Board decided to emphasise that the amendments do not relieve an entity from meeting other disclosure requirements within IFRS Standards (see paragraph 117E). For example, if an entity applying the amendments decides that accounting policy information about intangible assets is immaterial to its financial statements, the entity would still need to disclose the information required by IAS 38 *Intangible Assets* that the entity had determined to be material.

References to accounting policies in other IFRS Standards and publications

BC76W Other IFRS Standards sometimes require an entity to disclose an accounting policy. For example, paragraph 73 of IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* requires an entity to disclose the measurement bases used for determining the gross carrying amount of property, plant and equipment. The Board considered whether any of these requirements should be changed because of the amendments to IAS 1. However, the Board noted that paragraph 31 states that disclosure requirements in IFRS Standards are subject to materiality judgements—a disclosure required by an IFRS Standard is required to be provided only if the information resulting from that disclosure is material. Consequently, the Board concluded that amendments to requirements relating to accounting policy disclosures in other IFRS Standards are unnecessary.

Effect analysis

BC76X The Board acknowledged that the amendments may have:

- (a) an initial cost to preparers as they change from applying the concept of significance to applying the concept of materiality to accounting policy information; and
- (b) ongoing costs to preparers, because the amendments require an entity to apply its own judgement to determine what accounting policy information is material and should, therefore, be disclosed in the financial statements.

BC76Y However, in the Board's view, the amendments will improve the relevance of the financial statements by helping an entity to:

- (a) identify and disclose accounting policy information that is material to users of financial statements; and
- (b) remove immaterial accounting policy information that may obscure material accounting policy information.

BC76Z The Board also expects that the amendments:

- (a) are unlikely to be complex or costly to implement because they do not affect recognition and measurement, and will not require significant system changes to implement; and
- (b) will reduce the cost of preparing and using financial statements by reducing the disclosure of immaterial accounting policy information.

BC76AA Consequently, the Board expects that the benefits of the amendments will outweigh the costs.

Transition and comparative information

BC76AB The amendments affect the disclosure of narrative and descriptive information. Paragraph 38 specifies that comparative information is only required for narrative and descriptive information if it is 'relevant to understanding the current period's financial statements'. In the Board's view, providing comparative accounting policy information would be unnecessary in most circumstances because if the accounting policy:

- (a) is unchanged from the comparative periods, the disclosure of the current period's accounting policy is likely to provide users with all the accounting policy information that is relevant to an understanding of the current period's financial statements; or
- (b) has changed from the comparative periods, the disclosures required by paragraphs 28–29 of IAS 8 are likely to provide any information about the comparative period's accounting policies that is relevant to an understanding of the current period's financial statements.

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on IFRS Practice Statement 2

Paragraphs BC41A–BC41F and their related heading are added. For ease of reading new text is not underlined.

Specific topics

...

Materiality judgements for accounting policy information (see paragraphs BC76H–BC76AB of IAS 1)

- BC41A In February 2021 the Board amended IAS 1 to require an entity to disclose its material accounting policy information rather than its significant accounting policies.
- BC41B To help entities to apply the amendments to IAS 1, the Board also amended IFRS Practice Statement 2 to illustrate how an entity can judge whether accounting policy information is material to its financial statements.
- BC41C The Board added guidance and examples to IFRS Practice Statement 2 to help an entity apply the four-step materiality process to accounting policy information. The guidance and examples help an entity apply the amendments to IAS 1 by:
- (a) confirming that in assessing whether accounting policy information is material, an entity considers both qualitative and quantitative factors (see paragraph 88C);
 - (b) linking materiality judgements to accounting policy disclosures using the four-step materiality process described in paragraph 33 (see paragraph 88C).
 - (c) emphasising the need to focus on useful information for users of financial statements (see paragraphs 88C–88E); and
 - (d) demonstrating how an entity can apply the four-step materiality process to address:
 - (i) standardised (boilerplate) information disclosed as part of material accounting policy information (see Example S); and
 - (ii) accounting policy information that only duplicates or summarises the requirements of IFRS Standards (see Example T).
- BC41D Examples S and T are intended only to illustrate the application of the amendments to IAS 1 and the four-step materiality process to accounting policy information. They do not illustrate the application of the definition of material to all disclosure requirements of IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets*. An entity is also required to comply with the other disclosure requirements of those IFRS Standards.

IFRS STANDARDS—FEBRUARY 2021

- BC41E The Board concluded that accounting policy information that includes standardised information, or that duplicates or summarises some of the requirements of IFRS Standards, could sometimes be material. The Board added guidance about when such accounting policy information might be material to an entity's financial statements (see paragraph 88F).
- BC41F The Board concluded that, as the amendments provide non-mandatory guidance on the application of the definition of material to accounting policy information, transition requirements and an effective date for these amendments are unnecessary.

Dissenting opinion

Dissent of Ms Françoise Flores from *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*

- DO1 Ms Flores voted against the publication of *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*, which amends IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2. The reasons for her dissent are set out below.
- DO2 Ms Flores agrees with those amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 which aim to provide primary users of financial statements with all and only relevant accounting policy information. She also supports the Board's past and current efforts to clarify how the concept of materiality should be applied more generally. She agrees with all the amendments except paragraph 117B(e) of IAS 1 and paragraph 88F of IFRS Practice Statement 2.
- DO3 In particular, Ms Flores disagrees with paragraph 117B(e) of IAS 1, which implies that accounting policy information that includes information that is standardised or duplicates the requirements of IFRS Standards could be material when the underlying accounting is complex; and that, therefore, such information is required to be included in the financial statements. Ms Flores believes that the notion of complexity is highly subjective and, therefore, does not constitute a robust basis for a requirement. Introducing such a subjective assessment could, in her view, undermine the overall aim of the amendments, which is to contribute to a better application of the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures and thereby help an entity reduce the disclosure of immaterial accounting policy information. Facing such subjective judgements, an entity may opt for 'being on the safe side', providing more information than is required. In her view, paragraph 117B(e) of IAS 1 is an unsatisfactory response to feedback from users of financial statements who said they find entity-specific accounting policy information to be more useful than information that is standardised or that duplicates or summarises the requirements of IFRS Standards.
- DO4 A minority of respondents were concerned that the Board's proposals could be read as prohibiting the publication of any accounting policy information that is standardised, or that duplicates or summarises the requirements of IFRS Standards. Ms Flores believes that the appropriate response would have been to explain that such accounting policy information may, in some circumstances, be useful in providing context for entity-specific information. Such an approach would enhance the readability of entity-specific accounting policy information.
- DO5 Furthermore, Ms Flores notes that paragraph 2.36 of the *Conceptual Framework of Financial Reporting*, paragraph 7 of IAS 1 and the guidance included in paragraphs 13–23 of IFRS Practice Statement 2 state that users of financial statements are expected to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities, but may need to seek the aid of an adviser to cope with perceived complexity. In her view, investors are responsible for ensuring that their economic decisions are derived from a proper and knowledgeable understanding of an entity's financial statements, which includes

understanding the requirements of IFRS Standards. IFRS Standards should be regarded as public knowledge in a financial reporting environment. No mere recitation of the words from the IFRS Standards can meet the definition of material without stretching that definition endlessly. In Ms Flores' view, improving users' understanding of the requirements in IFRS Standards should be achieved through education by the IFRS Foundation. Such an objective should not be achieved by amending the requirements of IFRS Standards.

Amendments to other IFRS Standards and publications

Amendments to IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*

Paragraphs 21 and B5 are amended. Paragraph 44II is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Significance of financial instruments for financial position and performance

...

Other disclosures

Accounting policies

- 21 In accordance with paragraph 117 of IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2007), an entity discloses material ~~its significant~~ accounting policy information ~~policies~~ comprising the measurement basis (or bases) used in preparing the financial statements and the other accounting policies used that are relevant to an understanding of the financial statements. Information about the measurement basis (or bases) for financial instruments used in preparing the financial statements is expected to be material accounting policy information.

...

Effective date and transition

...

- 44II *Disclosure of Accounting Policies, which amends IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements, and was issued in February 2021, amended paragraphs 21 and B5. An entity shall apply that amendment for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendment for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.*

...

Appendix B Application guidance

...

Classes of financial instruments and level of disclosure (paragraph 6)

...

Other disclosure—accounting policies (paragraph 21)

B5 Paragraph 21 requires disclosure of material accounting policy information, which is expected to include information about the measurement basis (or bases) for financial instruments used in preparing the financial statements and the other accounting policies used that are relevant to an understanding of the financial statements. For financial instruments, such disclosure may include:

...

Paragraph 122 of IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) also requires entities to disclose, along with material its significant accounting policy information policies or other notes, the judgements, apart from those involving estimations, that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on IFRS 7

Paragraphs BC35ZA and BC35ZB and their related headings are added. New text is underlined.

Disclosures about the significance of financial instruments for financial position and performance (paragraphs 7–30, B4 and B5)

...

Other Disclosures—Accounting Policies

Amendments to IAS 1 (see paragraphs BC76H–BC76AB of IAS 1)

BC35ZA In February 2021 the Board amended IAS 1 to require an entity to disclose its material accounting policy information rather than its significant accounting policies.

BC35ZB As part of the amendments to IAS 1, the Board deleted from paragraph 117 of that Standard the description of what an accounting policy comprises, including the reference to ‘measurement basis (or bases)’. The Board expects that, for financial instruments, information about the measurement basis (or bases) used for the recognition and measurement of financial instruments is likely to be material to an entity’s financial statements. Consequently, the Board decided to retain the reference in paragraph 21 to ‘measurement basis (or bases)’ in describing what accounting policy information relating to financial instruments could be assessed as material to an entity’s financial statements.

Amendments to IAS 26 *Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans*

Paragraph 34 is amended and paragraph 38 is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

All plans

Disclosure

34 The financial statements of a retirement benefit plan, whether defined benefit or defined contribution, shall also contain the following information:

...

(b) material a summary of significant accounting policy information policies; and

...

Effective date

...

38 Disclosure of Accounting Policies, which amends IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements, and was issued in February 2021, amended paragraph 34. An entity shall apply that amendment for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendment for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Amendments to IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*

Paragraph 5 is amended and paragraph 60 is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Content of an interim financial report

- 5 IAS 1 defines a complete set of financial statements as including the following components:
- ...
- (e) notes, material comprising significant accounting policy information ~~policies~~ and other explanatory information;
- ...

Effective date

- ...
- 60 Disclosure of Accounting Policies, which amends IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements, and was issued in February 2021, amended paragraph 5. An entity shall apply that amendment for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendment for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Amendment to Guidance on implementing IFRS 8 *Operating Segments*

Paragraph IG2 is amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Descriptive information about an entity's reportable segments

IG2 The following illustrates the disclosure of descriptive information about an entity's reportable segments (the paragraph references are to the relevant requirements in the IFRS).

...

Measurement of operating segment profit or loss, assets and liabilities (paragraph 27)

The accounting policy information about policies of the operating segments ~~is~~ are the same as ~~that these described as part of the material in the significant accounting policy information, policies~~ except that pension expense for each operating segment is recognised and measured on the basis of cash payments to the pension plan. Diversified Company evaluates performance on the basis of profit or loss from operations before tax expense not including non-recurring gains and losses and foreign exchange gains and losses.

...

Amendment to Guidance on implementing IAS 1

Paragraph IG6 is amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Illustrative financial statement structure

...

IG6 The examples are not intended to illustrate all aspects of IFRSs, nor do they constitute a complete set of financial statements, which would also include a statement of cash flows, disclosures about material ~~significant~~ accounting policy information ~~policies~~ and other explanatory information.



International Financial Reporting Standards®

IFRS Foundation®

IFRS®

IAS®

IFRIC®

SIC®

IASB®

Contact the IFRS Foundation for details of countries where its trade marks are in use or have been registered.

The International Accounting Standards Board is the independent standard-setting body of the IFRS Foundation

Columbus Building | 7 Westferry Circus | Canary Wharf

London E14 4HD | United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7246 6410

Email: info@ifrs.org | Web: www.ifrs.org

Publications Department

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7332 2730

Email: publications@ifrs.org

