



HKFRS / IFRS UPDATE 2014/16

ANNUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO HKFRSs/IFRSs 2012-2014 CYCLE

Summary

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) published *Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012-2014 Cycle* on 25 September 2014. The HKICPA published the same amendments to HKFRSs on 16 October 2014.

Standard	Amendments relate to
<p>HKFRS/IFRS 5</p> <p><i>Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations</i></p> <p><i>(Prospective application)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reclassification of an asset or disposal group from being held for sale to being held for distribution to owners, or vice versa.
<p>HKFRS/IFRS 7</p> <p><i>Financial Instruments: Disclosures</i></p> <p><i>(Retrospective application)</i></p> <p><i>(Consequential amendment to HKFRS /IFRS 1)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarification of whether a servicing contract for a transferred financial asset gives rise to continuing involvement - Applicability of amendments to HKFRS/IFRS 7 on offsetting financial assets and liabilities to condensed interim financial statements.
<p>HKAS/IAS 19</p> <p><i>Employee Benefits</i></p> <p><i>(Beginning of earliest period presented)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The currency of 'high quality corporate bonds' used to determine the discount rate.
<p>HKAS/IAS 34</p> <p><i>Interim Financial Reporting</i></p> <p><i>(Retrospective application)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requirements if the disclosures in paragraph 16A of HKAS/IAS 34 are included 'elsewhere' in an interim report.

The effective date for the above annual improvements is 1 January 2016. Early application is permitted.

STATUS

Final

EFFECTIVE DATE

1 January 2016

ACCOUNTING IMPACT

May be significant



Amendments

HKFRS/IFRS 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*

Change in methods of disposal

The amendment clarifies that the reclassification of an asset or disposal group from being held for sale to being held for distribution to owners, or vice versa is considered to be a continuation of the original plan of disposal. Upon reclassification, an entity must apply the classification, presentation and measurement requirements of HKFRS/IFRS 5.

If an asset ceases to be classified as held for distribution to owners, the requirements of HKFRS/IFRS 5 for assets that cease to be classified as held for sale apply.

The amendment to HKFRS/IFRS 5 is required to be applied prospectively.

HKFRS/IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*

Servicing contracts and the applicability of offsetting amendments in condensed interim financial statements

Servicing contracts

The amendment clarifies the circumstances in which an entity has continuing involvement from the servicing of a transferred asset.

Continuing involvement exists if the servicer has a future interest in the performance of the transferred financial asset. Examples of situations where continuing involvement exists are where a transferor's servicing fee is:

- A variable fee which is dependent on the amount of the transferred asset that is ultimately recovered; or
- A fixed fee not paid in full because of non-performance of the transferred financial asset.

The amendment is required to be applied retrospectively in accordance with HKAS/IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. However, the amendment needs not to be applied for any period beginning before the annual period in which the entity first applies the amendments.

A consequential amendment has been made to HKFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards* / IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards*, in order that the same transitional provision applies to first time adopters.

Applicability of the offsetting amendments in condensed interim financial statements

A further amendment to HKFRS/IFRS 7 has clarified that the application of the amendment *Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (Amendments to HKFRS/IFRS 7) issued in December 2011 is not explicitly required for all interim periods. However, it is noted that in some cases these disclosures may need to be included in

condensed interim financial statements in order to comply with HKAS/IAS 34.

The amendment is required to be applied retrospectively in accordance with HKAS/IAS 8.

HKAS/IAS 19 *Employee Benefits*

Discount rate - regional market issue

The guidance in HKAS/IAS 19 has been clarified and requires that high quality corporate bonds used to determine the discount rate for the accounting of employee benefits need to be denominated in the same currency as the related benefits that will be paid to the employee.

Entities are required to apply the amendment from the earliest comparative period presented in the financial statements, with initial adjustments being recognised in retained earnings at the beginning of that period.

HKAS/IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*

Meaning of 'elsewhere in the interim financial report'

The requirements of paragraph 16A of HKAS/IAS 34 require additional disclosures to be presented either in the

- Notes to the interim financial statements or
- Elsewhere in the interim financial report.

The amendment clarifies, that a cross-reference is required, if the disclosures are presented 'elsewhere' in the interim financial report, such as in the management commentary or the risk report of an entity. However, to comply with paragraph 16A of HKAS/IAS 34, if the disclosures are contained in a separate document from the interim report, that document needs to be available to users of the financial statements on the same terms and at the same time as the interim report itself.

The amendment to HKAS/IAS 34 is required to be applied retrospectively in accordance with HKAS/IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*.

Effective date

The annual improvements are effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016, with early application permitted.

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