IFRS Update of standards and interpretations in issue at 31 December 2016
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Companies reporting under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) continue to face a steady flow of new standards and interpretations. The resulting changes range from significant amendments of fundamental principles to some minor changes from the annual improvements process (AIP). They will affect different areas of accounting, such as recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure.

Some of the changes have implications that go beyond matters of accounting, potentially also impacting the information systems of many entities. Furthermore, the changes may impact business decisions, such as the creation of joint arrangements or the structuring of particular transactions.

The challenge for preparers is to gain an understanding of what lies ahead.

Purpose of this publication

This publication provides an overview of the upcoming changes in standards and interpretations (pronouncements). It also provides an update on selected active projects. It does not attempt to provide an in-depth analysis or discussion of the topics. Rather, the objective is to highlight key aspects of these changes. Reference should be made to the text of the pronouncements before taking any decisions or actions.

This publication consists of three sections:

Section 1 provides a high-level overview of the key requirements of each pronouncement issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB or the Board) and the IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRS IC) as at 31 December 2016 that will be effective for the first-time for reporting periods ended at that date or thereafter. This overview provides a summary of the transitional requirements and a brief discussion of the potential impact that the changes may have on an entity’s financial statements.

A table comparing mandatory application for different year ends is presented at the beginning of Section 1. In the table, the pronouncements are presented in order of their effective dates. Note that many pronouncements contain provisions that would allow entities to adopt in earlier periods.

Following the table, the discussion of the pronouncements follows the order in which the related standards are presented in the IFRS bound volume (Red Book), except for the AIP which are discussed at the end of Section 1.

When a standard or interpretation has been issued, but has yet to be applied by an entity, IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors requires the entity to disclose any known (or reasonably estimable) information relevant to understanding the possible impact that the new pronouncement will have on the financial statements, or indicate the reason for not doing so. The table at the beginning of Section 1 is helpful in identifying the pronouncements that fall within the scope of this disclosure requirement.

Section 2 provides a summary of the agenda decisions (rejection notices) published in the IFRIC Update since 1 October 2016. For rejection notices published before 1 October 2016, please refer to previous editions of IFRS Update. In some rejection notices, the IFRS IC refers to the existing pronouncements that provide adequate guidance. These rejection notices provide a view on the application of the pronouncements and fall within ‘other accounting literature and accepted industry practices’ in paragraph 12 of IAS 8.

Section 3 summarises the key features of selected active projects of the IASB. The ‘Key projects’ addressed are those initiated with the objective of issuing new standards and those involving overarching considerations across a number of standards. ‘Other projects’ include proposed amendments with narrower applicability. Generally, only those projects that have reached the exposure draft stage are included, but, in selected cases, significant projects that have not yet reached the exposure draft stage are also highlighted.

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1 The IFRIC Update is available on the IASB’s website at http://www.ifrs.org/Updates/IFRIC+Updates/IFRIC+Updates.htm.
IFRS Core Tools

EY’s IFRS Core Tools provide the starting point for assessing the impact of changes to IFRS. Our IFRS Core Tools include a number of practical building blocks that can help the user to navigate the changing landscape of IFRS. In addition to IFRS Update, EY’s IFRS Core Tools include the publications described below.

International GAAP® Disclosure Checklist

Our 2016 edition of International GAAP® Disclosure Checklist captures disclosure requirements applicable to periods ended 31 December 2016 or thereafter, and disclosures that are permitted to be adopted early. These disclosure requirements are for all pronouncements issued as at 31 August 2016. This tool assists preparers to comply with the presentation and disclosure requirements of IFRS in their interim and year-end IFRS financial statements. Previous editions of this tool for earlier period-ends are available on EY’s IFRS Core Tools webpage.

Good Group (International) Limited

Good Group (International) Limited is a set of illustrative financial statements, incorporating presentation and disclosure requirements that are in issue as at 31 August 2016 and effective for the year ended 31 December 2016. Good Group (International) Limited – Illustrative interim condensed financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2016, based on IFRS in issue at 29 February 2016, supplements Good Group (International) Limited – Illustrative financial statements. Among other things, these illustrative financial statements can assist in understanding the impact accounting changes may have on the financial statements.

Also available from EY:

Other EY publications

References to other EY publications that contain further details and discussion on these topics are included throughout the IFRS Update, all of which can be downloaded from our website.3

International GAAP® 2016

Our International GAAP® 2016 is a comprehensive guide to interpreting and implementing IFRS. It includes pronouncements mentioned in this publication that were issued prior to September 2015, and it provides examples that illustrate how the requirements of those pronouncements are applied.

3 These publications are available on http://www.ey.com/ifrs.
4 International GAAP® is a registered trademark of Ernst & Young LLP (UK).
5 http://www.igaap.info.
### Table of mandatory application

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**Note 1:** In December 2015, the IASB postponed the effective date of this amendment indefinitely pending the outcome of its research project on the equity method of accounting.
IFRS 9 Financial Instruments

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Key requirements

Classification and measurement of financial assets

Except for certain trade receivables, an entity initially measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), amortised cost, or fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI), on the basis of their contractual cash flows and the business model under which the debt instruments are held.

There is a fair value option (FVO) that allows financial assets on initial recognition to be designated as FVTPL if that eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch.

Equity instruments are generally measured at FVTPL. However, entities have an irrevocable option on an instrument-by-instrument basis to present changes in the fair value of non-trading instruments in other comprehensive income (OCI) without subsequent reclassification to profit or loss.

Classification and measurement of financial liabilities

For financial liabilities designated as FVTPL using the FVO, the amount of change in the fair value of such financial liabilities that is attributable to changes in credit risk must be presented in OCI. The remainder of the change in fair value is presented in profit or loss, unless presentation in OCI of the fair value change in respect of the liability’s credit risk would create or enlarge an accounting mismatch.

All other IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement classification and measurement requirements for financial liabilities have been carried forward into IFRS 9, including the embedded derivative separation rules and the criteria for using the FVO.

Impairment

The impairment requirements are based on an expected credit loss (ECL) model that replaces the IAS 39 incurred loss model. The ECL model applies to debt instruments accounted for at amortised cost or at FVOCI, most loan commitments, financial guarantee contracts, contract assets under IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and lease receivables under IAS 17 Leases or IFRS 16 Leases.

Entities are generally required to recognise 12-month ECL on initial recognition (or when the commitment or guarantee was entered into) and thereafter as long as there is no significant deterioration in credit risk. However, if there has been a significant increase in credit risk on an individual or collective basis, then entities are required to recognise lifetime ECL. For trade receivables, a simplified approach may be applied whereby the lifetime ECL are always recognised.

Hedge accounting

Hedge effectiveness testing is prospective, without the 80% to 125% bright line test in IAS 39, and, depending on the hedge complexity, will often be qualitative.

A risk component of a financial or non-financial instrument may be designated as the hedged item if the risk component is separately identifiable and reliably measurable.

The time value of an option, any forward element of a forward contract and any foreign currency basis spread can be excluded from the hedging instrument designation and can be accounted for as costs of hedging.

More designations of groups of items as the hedged item are possible, including layer designations and some net positions.

Transition

Early application is permitted for reporting periods beginning after the issue of IFRS 9 on 24 July 2014 by applying all of the requirements in this standard at the same time. Alternatively, entities may elect to early apply only the requirements for the presentation of gains and losses on financial liabilities designated as FVTPL without applying the other requirements in the standard.

Impact

The application of IFRS 9 may change the measurement and presentation of many financial instruments, depending on their contractual cash flows and the business model under which they are held. The impairment requirements will generally result in earlier recognition of credit losses. The new hedging model may lead to more economic hedging strategies meeting the requirements for hedge accounting. It will be important for entities to monitor the discussions of the IFRS Transition Resource Group for Impairment of Financial Instruments (ITG).
Other EY publications

Applying IFRS: IFRS 9 for non-financial entities (March 2016) EYG no. AU3724

The Basel Committee Guidance on credit risk and accounting for expected credit losses (January 2016) EYG no. AU3670

Applying IFRS: ITG discusses IFRS 9 impairment issues at December 2015 ITG meeting (December 2015) EYG no. AU3662

Applying IFRS: Classification of financial instruments under IFRS 9 (May 2015) EYG no. AU3134

Applying IFRS: Impairment of financial instruments under IFRS 9 (December 2014) EYG no. AU2827

Applying IFRS: Hedge accounting under IFRS 9 (February 2014) EYG no. AU2185

IFRS Developments Issue 112: ITG discusses IFRS 9 impairment issues (September 2015)

IFRS Developments Issue 109: Next steps for the accounting for dynamic risk management project (May 2015) EYG no. AU3106

IFRS Developments Issue 105: The ITG discusses IFRS 9 impairment implementation issues (April 2015) EYG no. AU2891

IFRS Developments Issue 100: Basel Committee proposes guidance on accounting for expected credit losses (February 2015) EYG no. AU2891

IFRS Developments Issue 87: IASB issues IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – expected credit losses (July 2014) EYG no. AU2537

IFRS Developments Issue 86: IASB issues IFRS 9 Financial Instruments – classification and measurement (July 2014) EYG no. AU2536

IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 28 Investment Entities: Applying the Consolidation Exception - Amendments to IFRS 10, IFRS 12 and IAS 28

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

Key requirements

The amendments address three issues that have arisen in applying the investment entities exception under IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements.

The amendments to IFRS 10 clarify that the exemption in paragraph 4 of IFRS 10 from presenting consolidated financial statements applies to a parent entity that is a subsidiary of an investment entity, when the investment entity measures its subsidiaries at fair value.

Furthermore, the amendments to IFRS 10 clarify that only a subsidiary of an investment entity that is not an investment entity itself and that provides support services to the investment entity is consolidated. All other subsidiaries of an investment entity are measured at fair value.

The amendments to IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures allow the investor, when applying the equity method, to retain the fair value measurement applied by the investment entity associate or joint venture to its interests in subsidiaries.

Transition

The amendments must be applied retrospectively. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

Impact

The amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28 provide helpful clarifications that will assist preparers in applying the standards more consistently. However, it may still be difficult to identify investment entities in practice when they are part of a multi-layered group structure.

Other EY publications

IFRS Developments Issue 97: IASB issues amendments to the investment entities consolidation exception (December 2014) EYG no. AU2833
**IFRS 10 and IAS 28 Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture – Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28**

In December 2015, the IASB decided to defer the effective date of the amendments until such time as it has finalised any amendments that result from its research project on the equity method. Early application of the amendments is still permitted.

**Key requirements**
The amendments address the conflict between IFRS 10 and IAS 28 in dealing with the loss of control of a subsidiary that is sold or contributed to an associate or joint venture.

The amendments clarify that a full gain or loss is recognised when a transfer to an associate or joint venture involves a business as defined in IFRS 3 *Business Combinations*. Any gain or loss resulting from the sale or contribution of assets that does not constitute a business, however, is recognised only to the extent of unrelated investors’ interests in the associate or joint venture.

**Transition**
The amendments must be applied prospectively. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

**Impact**
The amendments are intended to eliminate diversity in practice and give preparers a consistent set of principles to apply for such transactions. However, the application of the definition of a business is judgemental and entities need to consider the definition carefully in such transactions.

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**IFRS 11 Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations – Amendments to IFRS 11**

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

**Key requirements**
The amendments require an entity acquiring an interest in a joint operation, in which the activity of the joint operation constitutes a business, to apply, to the extent of its share, all of the principles in IFRS 3 *Business Combinations* and other IFRSs that do not conflict with the requirements of IFRS 11 *Joint Arrangements*. Furthermore, entities are required to disclose the information required by IFRS 3 and other IFRSs for business combinations.

The amendments also apply to an entity on the formation of a joint operation if, and only if, an existing business is contributed by one of the parties to the joint operation on its formation.

Furthermore, the amendments clarify that, for the acquisition of an additional interest in a joint operation in which the activity of the joint operation constitutes a business, previously held interests in the joint operation must not be remeasured if the joint operator retains joint control.

**Transition**
The amendments must be applied prospectively. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

**Impact**
The amendments to IFRS 11 increase the scope of transactions that would need to be assessed to determine whether they represent the acquisition of a business or of an asset, which would require judgement. Entities need to consider the definition of a business carefully and select the appropriate accounting method based on the specific facts and circumstances of the transaction.

**Other EY publications**
*Applying IFRS in the Oil & Gas Sector: Potential implications of the amendments to IFRS 11 Joint Arrangements* (November 2014) EYG no. AU2749

*Applying IFRS: Challenges in adopting and applying IFRS 11* (June 2014) EYG no. AU2512
IFRS 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts
Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

Key requirements
IFRS 14 allows an entity, whose activities are subject to rate-regulation, to continue applying most of its existing accounting policies for regulatory deferral account balances upon its first-time adoption of IFRS. The standard does not apply to existing IFRS preparers. Also, an entity whose current GAAP does not allow the recognition of rate-regulated assets and liabilities, or that has not adopted such policy under its current GAAP, would not be allowed to recognise them on first-time application of IFRS.

Entities that adopt IFRS 14 must present the regulatory deferral accounts as separate line items on the statement of financial position and present movements in these account balances as separate line items in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The standard requires disclosure of the nature of, and risks associated with, the entity’s rate regulation and the effects of that rate regulation on its financial statements.

Transition
Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

Impact
IFRS 14 provides first-time adopters of IFRS with relief from derecognising rate-regulated assets and liabilities until a comprehensive project on accounting for such assets and liabilities is completed by the IASB. The comprehensive rate-regulated activities project is on the IASB’s active agenda.

Other EY publications
Applying IFRS for IFRS 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts (November 2014) EYG no. AU2640
IFRS Developments Issue 72: The IASB issues IFRS 14 - interim standard on regulatory deferral accounts (February 2014) EYG no. AU2146

IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Key requirements
IFRS 15 replaces all existing revenue requirements in IFRS (IAS 11 Construction Contracts, IAS 18 Revenue, IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes, IFRIC 15 Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate, IFRIC 18 Transfers of Assets from Customers and SIC 31 Revenue – Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services) and applies to all revenue arising from contracts with customers, unless the contracts are in the scope of other standards, such as IAS 17 (or IFRS 16 Leases, once applied). Its requirements also provide a model for the recognition and measurement of gains and losses on disposal of certain non-financial assets, including property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

The standard outlines the principles an entity must apply to measure and recognise revenue. The core principle is that an entity will recognise revenue at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

The principles in IFRS 15 will be applied using a five-step model:
1. Identify the contract(s) with a customer
2. Identify the performance obligations in the contract
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contract
5. Recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation

The standard requires entities to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers.

The standard also specifies how to account for the incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract.

Application guidance is provided in IFRS 15 to assist entities in applying its requirements to certain common arrangements, including licences of intellectual property, warranties, rights of return, principal-versus-agent considerations, options for additional goods or services and breakage.
Clarifications to IFRS 15
In April 2016, the IASB issued amendments to IFRS 15 to address several implementation issues discussed by the Joint Transition Resource Group for Revenue Recognition. The amendments:

- Clarify when a promised good or service is distinct within the context of the contract
- Clarify how to apply the principal versus agent application guidance, including the unit of account for the assessment, how to apply the control principle in service transactions and reframe the indicators
- Clarify when an entity’s activities significantly affect the intellectual property (IP) to which the customer has rights, which is a factor in determining whether the entity recognises revenue for licences over time or at a point in time
- Clarify the scope of the exception for sales-based and usage-based royalties related to licences of IP (the royalty constraint) when there are other promised goods or services in the contract
- Add two practical expedients to the transition requirements of IFRS 15 for: (a) completed contracts under the full retrospective transition approach; and (b) contract modifications at transition

The amendments have an effective date of 1 January 2018, which is the effective date of IFRS 15. Entities are required to apply these amendments retrospectively. The amendments are intended to clarify the requirements in IFRS 15, not to change the standard.

Transition
Entities can choose to apply the standard using either a full retrospective approach or a modified retrospective approach, with some limited relief provided under either approach. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

Impact
IFRS 15 is more prescriptive than the current IFRS requirements for revenue recognition and provides more application guidance. The disclosure requirements are also more extensive. The standard will affect entities across all industries. Adoption will be a significant undertaking for most entities with potential changes to their current accounting, systems and processes. Therefore, a successful implementation will require an assessment of and a plan for managing the change.

Other EY publications
Applying IFRS: A closer look at the new revenue recognition standard (Updated September 2016) EYG no. 03083-163Gbl
Applying IFRS: Joint Transition Resource Group for Revenue Recognition items of general agreement (Updated December 2016) EYG No. 04453-163Gbl
Applying IFRS: The new revenue standard affects more than just revenue (February 2015) EYG no. AU2881
IFRS Developments Issue 119: IASB issues clarifications to IFRS 15 (April 2016) EYG No. 00479-163Gbl

Sector publications are also available on ey.com/ifrs covering the following:

- Asset management
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- Engineering and construction
- Insurance
- Life sciences
- Mining and metals
- Oil and gas
- Power and utilities
- Real estate
- Retail and consumer products
- Technology
- Software and cloud services
- Telecommunications

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6 In January 2016, the IASB indicated it did not plan to schedule further meetings of the IFRS constituents of the TRG. The FASB TRG had its last scheduled meeting in November 2016. However, further FASB TRG meetings could be scheduled if the FASB receives enough broadly applicable questions.
IFRS 16 Leases

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

Key requirements

The scope of IFRS 16 includes leases of all assets, with certain exceptions. A lease is defined as a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

IFRS 16 requires lessees to account for all leases under a single on-balance sheet model in a similar way to finance leases under IAS 17. The standard includes two recognition exemptions for lessees – leases of ‘low-value’ assets (e.g., personal computers) and short-term leases (i.e., leases with a lease term of 12 months or less). At the commencement date of a lease, a lessee will recognise a liability to make lease payments (i.e., the lease liability) and an asset representing the right to use the underlying asset during the lease term (i.e., the right-of-use asset).

Lessees will be required to separately recognise the interest expense on the lease liability and the depreciation expense on the right-of-use asset.

Lessees will be required to remeasure the lease liability upon the occurrence of certain events (e.g., a change in the lease term, a change in future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine those payments). The lessee will generally recognise the amount of the remeasurement of the lease liability as an adjustment to the right-of-use asset.

Lessor accounting is substantially unchanged from today’s accounting under IAS 17. Lessors will continue to classify all leases using the same classification principle as in IAS 17 and distinguish between two types of leases: operating and finance leases.

Transition

A lessee can choose to apply the standard using either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach. The standard’s transition provisions permit certain reliefs. Early application is permitted, but not before an entity applies IFRS 15.

Impact

The lease expense recognition pattern for lessees will generally be accelerated as compared to today.

Key balance sheet metrics such as leverage and finance ratios, debt covenants and income statement metrics, such as earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA), could be impacted. Also, the cash flow statement for lessees could be affected as payments for the principal portion of the lease liability will be presented within financing activities.

Lessor accounting will result in little change compared to today’s lessee accounting.

The standard requires lessees and lessors to make more extensive disclosures than under IAS 17.

Given the significant accounting implications, lessees will have to carefully consider the contracts they enter into to identify any that are, or contain, leases. This evaluation will also be important for lessors to determine which contracts (or portions of contracts) are subject to the new revenue recognition standard.

Other EY publications

Applying IFRS: A closer look at the new leases standard (August 2016) EYG No. 02173-163Gbl

IFRS Developments Issue 117: IASB issues new leases standard (January 2016) EYG No. AU3676

IFRS Practical Matters: Leases make their way onto the balance sheet - Navigating the journey for a smooth landing (February 2016) EYG No. AU3725

Sector publications are also available on ey.com/ifrs covering the following:

› Consumer products and retail
› Telecommunications
› Financial services
› Real estate
› Mining and metals
› Engineering and construction
› Oilfield services
**IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative – Amendments to IAS 1**

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

**Key requirements**
The amendments to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* clarify, rather than significantly change, the existing IAS 1 requirements. The amendments clarify:

- The materiality requirements in IAS 1
- That specific line items in the statement(s) of profit or loss and OCI and the statement of financial position may be disaggregated
- That entities have flexibility as to the order in which they present the notes to financial statements
- That the share of OCI of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method must be presented in aggregate as a single line item, and classified between those items that will or will not be subsequently reclassified to profit or loss

Furthermore, the amendments clarify the requirements that apply when additional subtotals are presented in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and OCI.

**Transition**
Early application is permitted. Entities do not need to disclose that fact because the Board considers these amendments to be clarifications only that do not affect an entity’s accounting policies or accounting estimates.

**Impact**
These amendments are intended to assist entities in applying judgement when meeting the presentation and disclosure requirements in IFRS, and do not affect recognition and measurement. Although these amendments clarify existing requirements of IAS 1, the clarifications may facilitate enhanced disclosure effectiveness.

**Other EY publications**
*IFRS Developments Issue 98: IASB makes progress on the Disclosure Initiative* (December 2014) EYG no. AU2836

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**IAS 7 Disclosure Initiative – Amendments to IAS 7**

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017.

**Key requirements**
The amendments to IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows* are part of the IASB’s Disclosure Initiative and help users of financial statements better understand changes in an entity’s debt. The amendments require entities to provide disclosures about changes in their liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes (such as foreign exchange gains or losses).

**Transition**
On initial application of the amendment, entities are not required to provide comparative information for preceding periods. Early application is permitted.

**Impact**
The amendments are intended to provide information to help investors better understand changes in an entity’s debt.
IAS 12 Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses – Amendments to IAS 12
Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017.

Key requirements
The IASB issued the amendments to IAS 12 Income Taxes to clarify the accounting for deferred tax assets for unrealised losses on debt instruments measured at fair value.

The amendments clarify that an entity needs to consider whether tax law restricts the sources of taxable profits against which it may make deductions on the reversal of that deductible temporary difference. Furthermore, the amendments provide guidance on how an entity should determine future taxable profits and explain the circumstances in which taxable profit may include the recovery of some assets for more than their carrying amount.

Transition
Entities are required to apply the amendments retrospectively. However, on initial application of the amendments, the change in the opening equity of the earliest comparative period may be recognised in opening retained earnings (or in another component of equity, as appropriate), without allocating the change between opening retained earnings and other components of equity. Entities applying this relief must disclose that fact.

Early application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendments for an earlier period, it must disclose that fact.

Impact
The amendments are intended to remove existing divergence in practice in recognising deferred tax assets for unrealised losses.

IAS 16 and IAS 38 Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation – Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 38
Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

Key requirements
The amendments clarify the principle in IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets that revenue reflects a pattern of economic benefits that are generated from operating a business (of which the asset is part) rather than the economic benefits that are consumed through use of the asset. As a result, the ratio of revenue generated to total revenue expected to be generated cannot be used to depreciate property, plant and equipment and may only be used in very limited circumstances to amortise intangible assets.

Transition
The amendments are effective prospectively. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

Impact
Entities currently using revenue-based amortisation methods for property, plant and equipment will need to change their approach to an acceptable method, such as the diminishing balance method, which would recognise increased amortisation in the early part of the asset’s useful life.

Other EY publications
IFRS Developments Issue 78: IASB prohibits revenue-based depreciation (May 2014) EYG no. AU2353


**IAS 16 and IAS 41 Agriculture: Bearer Plants – Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41**

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

**Key requirements**

The amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41 *Agriculture* change the scope of IAS 16 to include biological assets that meet the definition of bearer plants (e.g., fruit trees). As a result of the amendments, bearer plants will be subject to all the recognition and measurement requirements in IAS 16, including the choice between the cost model and revaluation model for subsequent measurement. Agricultural produce growing on bearer plants (e.g., fruit growing on a tree) will remain within the scope of IAS 41.

In addition, government grants relating to bearer plants will be accounted for in accordance with IAS 20 *Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance*, instead of IAS 41.

**Transition**

Entities may apply the amendments on a fully retrospective basis. Alternatively, an entity may choose to measure a bearer plant at its fair value at the beginning of the earliest period presented. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

**Impact**

The requirements will not entirely eliminate the volatility in profit or loss as produce growing on bearer plants will still be measured at fair value. Furthermore, entities will need to determine appropriate methodologies to measure the fair value of these assets separately from the bearer plants on which they are growing, which may increase the complexity and subjectivity of the measurement.

**Other EY publications**

*IFRS Developments Issue 84: Bearer plants – the new requirements* (July 2014) EYG no. AU2518

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**IAS 27 Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements – Amendments to IAS 27**

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016.

**Key requirements**

The amendments to IAS 27 *Separate Financial Statements* allow an entity to use the equity method as described in IAS 28 to account for its investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in its separate financial statements. Therefore, an entity must account for these investments:

- At cost
- In accordance with IFRS 9 (or IAS 39)
- Or
- Using the equity method

The entity must apply the same accounting for each category of investment.

A consequential amendment was also made to IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards*. The amendment to IFRS 1 allows a first-time adopter accounting for investments in the separate financial statements using the equity method, to apply the IFRS 1 exemption for past business combinations to the acquisition of the investment.

**Transition**

The amendments must be applied retrospectively. Early application is permitted and must be disclosed.

**Impact**

The amendments eliminate a GAAP difference for countries where regulations require entities to present separate financial statements using the equity method to account for investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures.
**Key requirements**

The IASB issued amendments to IFRS 2 Share-based Payment in relation to the classification and measurement of share-based payment transactions. The amendments address three main areas:

- **The effects of vesting conditions on the measurement of a cash-settled share-based payment transaction.** The amendments clarify that the approach used to account for vesting conditions when measuring equity-settled share-based payments also applies to cash-settled share-based payments.

- **The classification of a share-based payment transaction with net settlement features for withholding tax obligations.** This amendment adds an exception to address the narrow situation where the net settlement arrangement is designed to meet an entity's obligation under tax laws or regulations to withhold a certain amount in order to meet the employee's tax obligation associated with the share-based payment. This amount is then transferred, normally in cash, to the tax authorities on the employee's behalf. To fulfil this obligation, the terms of the share-based payment arrangement may permit or require the entity to withhold the number of equity instruments that are equal to the monetary value of the employee's tax obligation from the total number of equity instruments that otherwise would have been issued to the employee upon exercise (or vesting) of the share-based payment ('net share settlement feature'). Where transactions meet the criteria, they are not divided into two components but are classified in their entirety as equity-settled share-based payment transactions, if they would have been so classified in the absence of the net share settlement feature.

- **The accounting where a modification to the terms and conditions of a share-based payment transaction changes its classification from cash-settled to equity-settled.** The amendment clarifies that, if the terms and conditions of a cash-settled share-based payment transaction are modified, with the result that it becomes an equity-settled share-based payment transaction, the transaction is accounted for as an equity-settled transaction from the date of the modification. Any difference (whether a debit or a credit) between the carrying amount of the liability derecognised and the amount recognised in equity on the modification date is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

**Transition**

On adoption, entities are required to apply the amendments without restating prior periods, but retrospective application is permitted if elected for all three amendments and other criteria are met. Early application is permitted.

**Impact**

The amendments are intended to eliminate diversity in practice, but are narrow in scope and address specific areas of classification and measurement.

**Other EY publications**

*IFRS Developments Issue 121: IASB issues amendments to IFRS 2 (June 2016) EYG no. 01519-163Gbl*
Applying IFRS 9 Financial Instruments with IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts - Amendments to IFRS 4

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018

Key requirements
The amendments address concerns arising from implementing the new financial instruments Standard, IFRS 9, before implementing the new insurance contracts standard that the Board is developing to replace IFRS 4. The amendments introduce two options for entities issuing insurance contracts: a temporary exemption from applying IFRS 9 and an overlay approach.

Temporary exemption from IFRS 9
The optional temporary exemption from IFRS 9 is available to entities whose activities are predominantly connected with insurance. The temporary exemption permits such entities to continue to apply IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement while they defer the application of IFRS 9 until 1 January 2021 at the latest. Predominance must be initially assessed at the annual reporting date that immediately precedes 1 April 2016 and before IFRS 9 is implemented. Also the evaluation of predominance can only be reassessed in rare cases. Entities applying the temporary exemption will be required to make additional disclosures.

The overlay approach
The overlay approach is an option for entities that adopt IFRS 9 and issue insurance contracts, to adjust profit or loss for eligible financial assets; effectively resulting in IAS 39 accounting for those designated financial assets. The adjustment eliminates accounting volatility that may arise from applying IFRS 9 without the new insurance contracts standard. Under this approach, an entity is permitted to reclassify amounts between profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI) for designated financial assets. An entity must present a separate line item for the amount of the overlay adjustment in profit or loss, as well as a separate line item for the corresponding adjustment in OCI.

Transition
The temporary exemption is first applied for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

An entity may elect the overlay approach when it first applies IFRS 9 and apply that approach retrospectively to financial assets designated on transition to IFRS 9. The entity restates comparative information reflecting the overlay approach if, and only if, the entity restates comparative information when applying IFRS 9.

Impact
The overlay approach requires an entity to remove from profit or loss additional volatility that may arise if IFRS 9 is applied with IFRS 4.

When applying the temporary exemption, entities must still provide extensive disclosure that require the application of some aspects of IFRS 9.

Other EY publications
Insurance Accounting Alert (September 2016) EYG no. 02745-163G6
Transfers of Investment Property
(Amendments to IAS 40)

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Key requirements
The amendments clarify when an entity should transfer property, including property under construction or development into, or out of investment property. The amendments state that a change in use occurs when the property meets, or ceases to meet, the definition of investment property and there is evidence of the change in use. A mere change in management’s intentions for the use of a property does not provide evidence of a change in use.

Transition
Entities should apply the amendments prospectively to changes in use that occur on or after the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the entity first applies the amendments. An entity should reassess the classification of property held at that date and, if applicable, reclassify property to reflect the conditions that exist at that date. Retrospective application in accordance with IAS 8 is only permitted if that is possible without the use of hindsight.

Early application of the amendments is permitted and must be disclosed.

Impact
The amendments will eliminate diversity in practice.

IFRIC Interpretation 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration

Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Key requirements
The interpretation clarifies that in determining the spot exchange rate to use on initial recognition of the related asset, expense or income (or part of it) on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to advance consideration, the date of the transaction is the date on which an entity initially recognises the non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability arising from the advance consideration. If there are multiple payments or receipts in advance, then the entity must determine a date of the transactions for each payment or receipt of advance consideration.

Transition
Entities may apply the amendments on a fully retrospective basis. Alternatively, an entity may apply the interpretation prospectively to all assets, expenses and income in its scope that are initially recognised on or after:
(i) The beginning of the reporting period in which the entity first applies the interpretation
Or
(ii) The beginning of a prior reporting period presented as comparative information in the financial statements of the reporting period in which the entity first applies the interpretation.

Early application of interpretation is permitted and must be disclosed.

First-time adopters of IFRS are also permitted to apply the interpretation prospectively to all assets, expenses and income initially recognised on or after the date of transition to IFRS.

Impact
The amendments are intended to eliminate diversity in practice, when recognising the related asset, expense or income (or part of it) on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to advance consideration received or paid in foreign currency.
## Improvements to International Financial Reporting Standards

### Key requirements
The IASB’s annual improvements process deals with non-urgent, but necessary, clarifications and amendments to IFRS.

### 2012-2014 cycle (issued in September 2014)
Following is a summary of the amendments (other than those affecting only the standards’ Basis for Conclusions) from the 2012-2014 annual improvements cycle. The changes summarised below are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016. Earlier application is permitted and must be disclosed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFRS 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations</th>
<th>Changes in methods of disposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‣ Assets (or disposal groups) are generally disposed of either through sale or distribution to owners. The amendment clarifies that changing from one of these disposal methods to the other would not be considered a new plan of disposal, rather it is a continuation of the original plan. There is, therefore, no interruption of the application of the requirements in IFRS 5.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment must be applied prospectively.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFRS 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures</th>
<th>Servicing contracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment clarifies that a servicing contract that includes a fee can constitute continuing involvement in a financial asset. An entity must assess the nature of the fee and the arrangement against the guidance for continuing involvement in IFRS 7.B30 and IFRS 7.42C in order to assess whether the disclosures are required.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The assessment of which servicing contracts constitute continuing involvement must be done retrospectively. However, the required disclosures would not need to be provided for any period beginning before the annual period in which the entity first applies the amendment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicability of the offsetting disclosures to condensed interim financial statements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment clarifies that the offsetting disclosure requirements do not apply to condensed interim financial statements, unless such disclosures provide a significant update to the information reported in the most recent annual report.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendments must be applied retrospectively.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IAS 19 Employee Benefits</th>
<th>Discount rate: regional market issue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment clarifies that market depth of high quality corporate bonds is assessed based on the currency in which the obligation is denominated, rather than the country where the obligation is located. When there is no deep market for high quality corporate bonds in that currency, government bond rates must be used.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment must be applied prospectively.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting</th>
<th>Disclosure of information ‘elsewhere in the interim financial report’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment clarifies that the required interim disclosures must be either in the interim financial statements or incorporated by cross-reference between the interim financial statements and wherever they are included within the interim financial report (e.g., in the management commentary or risk report).</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The other information within the interim financial report must be available to users on the same terms and at the same time as the interim financial statements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ The amendment must be applied retrospectively.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other EY publications
- IFRS Developments Issue 71: The IASB issues two cycles of annual improvements to IFRS (December 2013) EYG no. AU2068
- IFRS Developments Issue 91: IASB concludes the 2012-2014 Annual Improvements Cycle (September 2014) EYG no. AU2645
### 2014-2016 cycle (issued in December 2016)

Following is a summary of the amendments from the 2014-2016 annual improvements cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFRS 1 First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards</th>
<th>Deletion of short-term exemptions for first-time adopters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ Short-term exemptions in paragraphs E3-E7 of IFRS 1 were deleted because they have now served their intended purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ The amendment is effective from 1 January 2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</th>
<th>Clarification that measuring investees at fair value through profit or loss is an investment-by-investment choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ The amendments clarifies that:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ An entity that is a venture capital organisation, or other qualifying entity, may elect, at initial recognition on an investment-by-investment basis, to measure its investments in associates and joint ventures at fair value through profit or loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ If an entity that is not itself an investment entity has an interest in an associate or joint venture that is an investment entity, the entity may, when applying the equity method, elect to retain the fair value measurement applied by that investment entity associate or joint venture to the investment entity associate’s or joint venture’s interests in subsidiaries. This election is made separately for each investment entity associate or joint venture, at the later of the date on which (a) the investment entity associate or joint venture is initially recognised; (b) the associate or joint venture becomes an investment entity; and (c) the investment entity associate or joint venture first becomes a parent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ The amendments should be applied retrospectively and are effective from 1 January 2018, with earlier application permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it must disclose that fact.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFRS 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</th>
<th>Clarification of the scope of the disclosure requirements in IFRS 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ The amendments clarify that the disclosure requirements in IFRS 12, other than those in paragraphs B10-B16, apply to an entity’s interest in a subsidiary, a joint venture or an associate (or a portion of its interest in a joint venture or an associate) that is classified (or included in a disposal group that is classified) as held for sale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▶ The amendments are effective from 1 January 2017 and must be applied retrospectively.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 2: Items not taken onto the IFRS Interpretations Committee’s agenda in Q4 2016

Certain items deliberated by the IFRS IC are published within the ‘Interpretations Committee agenda decisions’ section of the IASB’s IFRIC Update. Agenda decisions (also referred to as rejection notices) are issues that the IFRS IC decides not to add to its agenda and include the reasons for not doing so. For some of these items, the IFRS IC includes further information about how the standards should be applied. This guidance does not constitute an interpretation, but rather, provides additional information on the issues raised and the IFRS IC’s views on how the standards and current interpretations are to be applied.

The table below summarises topics that the IFRS IC decided not to take onto its agenda for the period from 1 October 2016 (since our previous edition of IFRS Update) to 31 December 2016 and contains highlights from the agenda decisions. For agenda decisions published before 1 October 2016, please refer to previous editions of IFRS Update. All items considered by the IFRS IC during its meetings, as well as the full text of its conclusions, can be found in the IFRIC Update on the IASB’s website.7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final date considered</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Summary of reasons given for not adding the issue to the IFRS IC’s agenda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>IAS 12 Income Taxes—Expected manner of recovery of indefinite life intangible assets when measuring deferred tax</td>
<td>The IFRS IC received a request to clarify how to determine the expected manner of recovery of an indefinite life intangible asset for the purposes of measuring deferred tax. The IFRS IC noted that paragraph 51 of IAS 12 Income Taxes states that the measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets reflects the tax consequences that follow from the manner in which an entity expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities. The IFRS IC also noted the requirements in paragraph 88 of IAS 38 Intangible Assets regarding indefinite life intangible assets. The IFRS IC observed that an indefinite life intangible asset is not a non-depreciable asset as envisaged by paragraph 51B of IAS 12. This is because a non-depreciable asset has an unlimited (or infinite) life, and IAS 38 explains that indefinite does not mean infinite. Consequently, the requirements in paragraph 51B of IAS 12 do not apply to indefinite life intangible assets. The IFRS IC noted the Board’s observation about indefinite life intangible assets when the Board amended IAS 38 in 2004. The Board observed that an indefinite life intangible asset is not amortised because there is no foreseeable limit on the period during which an entity expects to consume the future economic benefits embodied in the asset. Hence, amortisation over an arbitrarily determined maximum period would not be representationally faithful. Therefore, the reason for not amortising an indefinite life intangible asset is not because there is no consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in the asset. The IFRS IC observed that an entity recovers the carrying amount of an asset in the form of economic benefits that flow to the entity in future periods, which could be through use or sale of the asset. Accordingly, the recovery of the carrying amount of an indefinite life intangible asset does not depend on whether the asset is amortised. Consequently, the fact that an entity does not amortise an indefinite life intangible asset does not necessarily mean that the entity will recover the carrying amount of that asset only through sale and not through use. The IFRS IC noted that an entity applies the principle and requirements in paragraphs 51 and 51A of IAS 12 when measuring deferred tax on an indefinite life intangible asset. In applying paragraphs 51 and 51A of IAS 12, an entity determines its expected manner of recovery of the carrying amount of the indefinite life intangible asset, and reflects the tax consequences that follow from that expected manner of recovery. The IFRS IC concluded that the principle and requirements in paragraphs 51 and 51A of IAS 12 provide sufficient requirements with respect to measuring deferred tax.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 The IFRIC Update is available at [http://www.ifrs.org/Updates/IFRIC+Updates/IFRIC+Updates.htm](http://www.ifrs.org/Updates/IFRIC+Updates/IFRIC+Updates.htm).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final date considered</th>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Summary of reasons given for not adding the issue to the IFRS IC’s agenda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| November 2016         | IAS 32 Financial instruments: Presentation—Written put options over non-controlling interests to be settled by a variable number of the parent’s shares | The IFRS IC received a request regarding how an entity accounts for a written put option over non-controlling interests (NCI put) in its consolidated financial statements. The NCI put has a strike price that will, or may, be settled by the exchange of a variable number of the parent’s own equity instruments. Specifically, the IFRS IC was asked to consider whether, in its consolidated financial statements, the parent:  
   Applies paragraph 23 of IAS 32 and, therefore, recognises a financial liability representing the present value of the option’s strike price, i.e., a gross liability; or  
   Does not apply paragraph 23 of IAS 32 and, therefore, recognises a derivative financial liability presented on a net basis measured at fair value.  
  The IFRS IC was also asked whether the parent applies the same accounting for NCI puts for which the parent has the choice to settle the exercise price either in cash or by way of a variable number of its own equity instruments to the same value.  
  The IFRS IC observed that, in the past, it had discussed issues relating to NCI puts that are settled in cash. Those issues were referred to the Board and are being considered as part of the Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Equity project.  
  The IFRS IC noted that:  
   On the basis of its previous discussions, the issue is too broad for the IFRS IC to address efficiently within the confines of existing IFRSs  
   The Board is currently considering the requirements for all derivatives on an entity’s own equity comprehensively as part of the Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Equity project  
  For these reasons, the IFRS IC decided not to add this issue to its agenda. |
Section 3: Active IASB projects

The ability to stay current on the IASB’s standard-setting activities is critical in a sea of change. The following pages summarise key features of selected active projects of the IASB, along with potential implications of the proposed standards. The ‘Key projects’ are those initiated with the objective of issuing new standards or that involve overarching considerations across a number of standards. ‘Other projects’ include proposed amendments with narrower applicability. Generally, only those projects that have reached the exposure draft stage are included, but in selected cases, projects that have not yet reached the exposure draft stage are also commented on.8

**Key projects**

**Insurance Contracts**

**Key developments to date**

**Background**

The IASB completed redeliberating its second ED *Insurance contracts*, issued in June 2013, on a comprehensive method of accounting for insurance contracts. The IASB staff is currently working on the balloting process, and the standard is expected to be issued in March 2017.

**Scope**

The standard would apply to all types of insurance contracts (i.e., life, non-life, direct insurance and re-insurance), regardless of the type of entities that issued them, as well as certain guarantees and financial instrument contracts with discretionary participation features. A few scope exceptions would apply.

**Key features**

The proposed approach for the measurement of the insurance contract liability is based on the following building blocks approach (also called the general measurement model):

- Expected present value of future cash flows
- A risk adjustment related to the expected present value of cash flows
- A contractual service margin (CSM) that would eliminate any gain at inception of the contract. The CSM would be adjusted subsequently for certain changes in estimates of future cash flows and the risk adjustment
- A discount rate that would be updated at the end of each reporting period. This rate would be based on the principle that the rate must reflect the characteristics of the liability

The objective of the insurance contracts standard is to provide principles for accounting for individual contracts, but contracts can be aggregated into groups to the extent certain criteria are met.

An accounting policy choice would be permitted at a portfolio level to recognise the effect of changes in discount rates in either other comprehensive income or profit or loss.

Certain contracts with participating features would be required to follow a modification of the proposed general measurement model (i.e., the building blocks approach that applies to all other insurance contracts), which is referred to as the variable fee approach. Changes in the estimate of the variable fee, which includes the entity’s share in the investment performance of specified items, are adjusted to the CSM.

Revenue would be reported in the statement of profit or loss through earned premiums representing the insurer’s performance under the contracts in the period for all types of insurance contracts.

The CSM is recognised in profit or loss on the basis of the passage of time.

A simplified approach based on a premium allocation could be applied to the liability for the remaining coverage if contracts meet certain eligibility criteria.

**Transition and effective date**

The IASB has tentatively decided that the effective date will be 1 January 2021. During redeliberations, the Board decided on a retrospective approach to transition, subject to certain practical reliefs.

**Impact**

The Board’s tentative decision to make the use of OCI optional is a compromise necessary to complete the insurance contracts project. This will allow entities to reflect the differences that exist in how they run their businesses to fulfil their obligations under their insurance contracts.
Even though the IASB made OCI optional and introduced a variable fee model, the proposed model is expected to have a significant impact on key performance indicators and may still result in increased volatility in equity and profit or loss compared to today’s accounting model.

**FASB insurance project**
The FASB also published its proposals in June 2013. Subsequently, however, the FASB decided not to issue a new insurance contracts standard, but to make enhancements to its current accounting for insurance companies instead.

**Other EY publications**
Our Insurance Accounting Alerts provide timely updates on the IASB’s discussion of the project.9

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**Conceptual Framework**

**Key developments to date**

**Background**
The objective of the Conceptual Framework project is to improve financial reporting by providing a more complete, clear and updated set of concepts.

To achieve this, the IASB is building on the existing Conceptual Framework, while updating it, improving it and filling in the gaps, instead of fundamentally reconsidering all aspects of the Conceptual Framework.

**Scope and key features**
The Exposure Draft (ED) that was issued in May 2015 proposes to:

- Revise the definitions of elements in the financial statements
- Include new guidance on the recognition criteria and derecognition principles
- Describe the various measurement bases and factors to consider when selecting an appropriate measurement basis
- Include the principles for when items of income and expense are reported in OCI or profit or loss
- Describe high-level concepts for presentation and disclosure of information

The comment period for the ED ended on 25 November 2015.

The Board is currently deliberating the comments received on the ED. In November 2016, the IASB issued a staff paper, Effect of Board Redeliberations on the Exposure Draft Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting, that compares the proposals in the ED with the results of the Board’s deliberations up to 15 November 2016. The final version of the Conceptual Framework is expected to be issued in the second half of 2017.

**Impact**
The proposed changes to the Conceptual Framework may impact the application of IFRS in situations in which no standard applies to a particular transaction or event, or when a standard allows a choice of accounting policies.

**Other EY publications**
Applying IFRS: IASB issues the Conceptual Framework exposure draft (June 2015) EYG no. AU3242

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Disclosure Initiative

Key developments to date

Background
The IASB is undertaking a broad-based initiative to explore how disclosures in IFRS financial reporting can be improved. The Disclosure Initiative is made up of a number of implementation and research projects. In December 2014 and January 2016, amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 7 were issued respectively. The amendments to IAS 1 issued in December 2014 generally only clarify existing requirements. However, these clarifications can be effective in steering practice away from making disclosures that contribute to the observed disclosure ineffectiveness. The amendments to IAS 7 issued in January 2016 came as a response to requests from investors for information that helps them better understand changes in an entity’s debt. Similarly, the other projects have the potential to contribute to more tailored and effective disclosures.

Materiality
The objective of this project is to consider ways to improve the application of the materiality concept. The IASB plans to:

- Provide guidance on the application of materiality, which will take the form of a non-mandatory Practice Statement
- Wait until further work has been performed on the general disclosure review of other standards before considering possible changes to address the use of inconsistent or excessively prescriptive language in standards

The ED of a proposed Practice Statement was issued in October 2015. The ED proposes guidance in three main areas:

- Characteristics of materiality
- How to apply the concept of materiality when presenting and disclosing information in the financial statements
- How to assess whether omissions and misstatements of information are material to the financial statements

The IASB is considering the comments received. The final Practice Statement is expected to be published in the second half of 2017.

Principles of disclosure
The objective of this project is to identify and develop a possible set of principles for disclosure in IFRS that could form the basis of a standard-level project. The research phase will focus on a review of the general requirements in IAS 1, IAS 7 and IAS 8, and consider how they might be replaced with a single standard, in essence, creating a disclosure framework. The main focus will be on recommendations for improvements expressed by constituents in the Financial Reporting Disclosure Discussion Forum. In addition, the Board plans to consider feedback received in the Conceptual Framework project. The Discussion Paper is expected to be published in Q2 2017.

The IASB plans to research the following:

- Principles of disclosure for the notes, including disclosure of alternative performance measures and non-IFRS information
- Information in a complete set of IFRS financial statements, including:
  - Differential disclosures and proportionality
  - Cash flow reporting
  - Disclosure of interim financial information

Standards-level review of disclosures
The IASB is planning to carry out a review of existing standards to identify and eliminate redundancies, conflicts, and duplications.

Impact
At this stage of the Disclosure Initiative, the impact of the different projects is unknown. However, the objective is to improve disclosure effectiveness by providing guidance on how to enhance the structure of financial statements, make disclosures entity-specific, and apply the materiality concept.

The amendments to IAS 1 issued in December 2014 generally only clarify existing requirements. However, these clarifications can be effective in steering practice away from making disclosures that contribute to the observed disclosure ineffectiveness. The amendments to IAS 7 issued in January 2016 came as a response to requests from investors for information that helps them better understand changes in an entity’s debt. Similarly, the other projects have the potential to contribute to more tailored and effective disclosures.

Other EY publications
Applying IFRS: Improving disclosure effectiveness (July 2014) EYG no. AU2513
IFRS Developments Issue 115: Disclosure Initiative – proposed guidance on materiality (October 2015) EYG no. AU3581
Other projects

The IASB has a number of projects on its work plan to amend existing standards and interpretations for specific matters. Following is a brief summary of selected projects. Refer to the IASB’s website for its work plan, which includes the current status of all projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other projects</th>
<th>Status/next steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Instruments – Accounting for Dynamic Risk Management: A Portfolio Revaluation Approach to Macro Hedging</strong></td>
<td>▶ DP issued in April 2014; redeliberations completed in Q4 2015; discussion paper is expected in the second half of 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ The objective of this project is to address the specific accounting for risk management strategies relating to open portfolios rather than individual contracts. The hedge accounting requirements in IAS 39 and IFRS 9 do not provide specific solutions to the issues associated with macro hedging.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ The IASB is focusing initially on the information constituents believe should be required to better reflect entities’ dynamic risk management activities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ The IASB is expected to consider how constituents’ information needs could be addressed through disclosures before considering the areas that need to be addressed through recognition and measurement. The objective is not to be a disclosure only project.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Classification of Liabilities (Proposed amendments to IAS 1)</strong></td>
<td>▶ ED issued in Q1 2015; amendments are expected in the second half of 2017</td>
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<td>▶ The proposed amendments to IAS 1 aim to improve presentation in financial statements by clarifying the criteria for the classification of a liability as either current or non-current. The ED proposes to:</td>
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<tr>
<td>▶ Clarify that the classification of a liability as either current or non-current is based on the entity’s rights at the end of the reporting period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▶ Clarify the link between the settlement of the liability and the outflow of resources from the entity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement/Availability of a Refund (Amendments to IAS 19 and IFRIC 14)</strong></td>
<td>▶ ED issued in Q2 2015; amendments are expected in the second half of 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▶ The proposed amendments to IAS 19 specify that, in the event of a plan amendment, curtailment or settlement during a reporting period, an entity is required to use updated information to determine current service cost and net interest for the period following such an event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▶ The proposed amendments to IFRIC 14 IAS 19 - The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction address whether the powers of other parties affect an entity’s right to a refund of a surplus from the plan.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Definition of a Business / Previously Held Interests in a Joint Operation (Proposed amendments to IFRS 3 and IFRS 11)

The proposed amendments aim to address issues related to the application of the definition of a business, and also to eliminate diversity in practice in the accounting for previously held interests in the assets and liabilities of a joint operation (JO) in transactions in which an entity obtains control or joint control of a JO that meets the definition of a business. In summary, the ED proposes the following clarifications to the definition of a business:

- To clarify that to be considered a business, an acquired set of activities and assets (a set) must include, at a minimum, an input and a substantive process that together have the ability to contribute to the creation of outputs.
- To remove the statement that a set of activities and assets is a business if market participants can replace the missing elements and continue to produce outputs.
- To revise the definition of outputs to focus on goods and services provided to customers and to remove the reference to the ability to reduce costs.
- To consider a set of activities and assets not to be a business if, at the transaction date, substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets acquired is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets.
- To add guidance to help determine whether a substantive process has been acquired.

The ED also proposes to clarify that, when an entity obtains control of a business that is a JO, the entity applies the requirements for a business combination achieved in stages, including remeasuring previously held interests in the assets and liabilities of the JO to fair value. However, if an entity obtains joint control of a business that is a JO, or if it increases its interest in JO over which it already has joint control, then previously held interests in the assets and liabilities of the JO are not remeasured.

### Status/next steps

- ED issued in Q2 2016; comments were due by 31 October 2016; a decision on the project’s direction is expected in Q1 2017.
The table below sets out the estimated timeline for the remaining projects on the IASB’s active agenda as at 15 December 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IASB projects</th>
<th>Q1 2017</th>
<th>Q2 2017</th>
<th>After Q2 2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Financial Statements</td>
<td>Publish discussion paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Combinations under Common Control</td>
<td>Publish discussion paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Instruments with Characteristics of Equity</td>
<td>Publish discussion paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goodwill and Impairment</td>
<td>Decide project direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discount Rates</td>
<td>Publish research summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share-based Payment</td>
<td>Publish research summary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Standard-setting and related projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rate-regulated Activities</td>
<td>Publish discussion paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disclosure Initiative: Definition of Materiality (Proposed amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8)</td>
<td>Publish exposure draft</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Narrow-scope amendments and IFRIC Interpretations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting Policies and Accounting Estimates</td>
<td>Publish exposure draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improvements to IFRS 8 Operating Segments</td>
<td>Publish exposure draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use (Proposed amendments to IAS 16)</td>
<td>Publish exposure draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments (IFRIC Interpretation)</td>
<td>Issue IFRIC Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Improvements 2015-2017</td>
<td>Publish exposure draft (Expected January)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symmetric Prepayment Options</td>
<td>Decide project direction</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Post-implementation Reviews</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-implementation Review of IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement</td>
<td>Decide project direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-implementation Review of IFRSs 10-12 relating to consolidated financial statements and joint arrangements</td>
<td>Initiate post-implementation review</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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ED None

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