

**ACCOUNTING STANDARD**

**AASB 102**  
July 2004

# **Inventories**



**Australian Government**

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**Australian Accounting  
Standards Board**

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### BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS ON IAS 2

(available to AASB online subscribers or through the IASB)

Australian Accounting Standard AASB 102 *Inventories* is set out in paragraphs 1 – 39. All the paragraphs have equal authority. Terms defined in this Standard are in *italics* the first time they appear in the Standard. AASB 102 is to be read in the context of other Australian Accounting Standards, including AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*, which identifies the Australian Accounting Interpretations. In the absence of explicit guidance, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* provides a basis for selecting and applying accounting policies.

## **PREFACE**

### **Reasons for Issuing AASB 102**

The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) is implementing the Financial Reporting Council's policy of adopting the Standards of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) for application to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. The AASB has decided it will continue to issue sector-neutral Standards, that is, Standards applicable to both for-profit and not-for-profit entities, including public sector entities. Except for Standards that are specific to the not-for-profit or public sectors or that are of a purely domestic nature, the AASB is using the IASB Standards as the "foundation" Standards to which it adds material detailing the scope and applicability of a Standard in the Australian environment. Additions are made, where necessary, to broaden the content to cover sectors not addressed by an IASB Standard and domestic, regulatory or other issues.

The IASB defines International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as comprising:

- (a) International Financial Reporting Standards;
- (b) International Accounting Standards; and
- (c) Interpretations originated by the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) or the former Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC).

The Australian equivalents to IFRSs are:

- (a) Accounting Standards issued by the AASB that are equivalent to Standards issued by the IASB, being AASBs 1 – 99 corresponding to the IFRS series and AASBs 101 – 199 corresponding to the IAS series; and
- (b) Interpretations issued by the AASB corresponding to the Interpretations adopted by the IASB, as listed in AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*.

## **Main Features of this Standard**

### **Application Date**

This Standard is applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. To promote comparability among the financial reports of Australian entities, early adoption of this Standard is not permitted.

### **First-time Application and Comparatives**

Application of this Standard will begin in the first annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2005 in the context of adopting all Australian equivalents to IFRSs. The requirements of AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*, the Australian equivalent of IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards*, must be observed. AASB 1 requires prior period information, presented as comparative information, to be restated as if the requirements of this Standard had always applied. This differs from previous Australian requirements where changes in accounting policies did not require the restatement of the income statement and balance sheet of the preceding period.

### **Main Requirements**

The Standard:

- (a) requires inventories (other than those held for distribution) to be measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value;
- (b) requires inventories held for distribution by not-for-profit entities to be measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost;
- (c) prescribes cost formulas that are to be used to assign costs to inventories;
- (d) prescribes the manner and circumstances in which write-downs to net realisable value and to current replacement cost are recognised; and
- (e) requires specific disclosures in relation to inventories.

## **COMPARISON WITH INTERNATIONAL PRONOUNCEMENTS**

### **AASB 102 and IAS 2**

AASB 102 is equivalent to IAS 2 *Inventories* issued by the IASB. Paragraphs that have been added to this Standard (and do not appear in the text of the equivalent IASB standard) are identified with the prefix “Aus”, followed by the number of the relevant IASB paragraph and decimal numbering. Paragraphs that apply only to not-for-profit entities begin by identifying their limited applicability.

### **Compliance with IAS 2**

For-profit entities that comply with AASB 102 will simultaneously be in compliance with IAS 2. Not-for-profit entities using the added “Aus” paragraphs in the Standard that specifically apply to not-for-profit entities may not be simultaneously complying with IAS 2. Whether a not-for-profit entity will be in compliance with IAS 2 will depend on whether the “Aus” paragraphs provide additional guidance for not-for-profit entities or contain requirements that are inconsistent with the corresponding IASB Standard and will be applied by the not-for-profit entity.

### **AASB 102 and IPSAS 12**

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) are issued by the Public Sector Committee of the International Federation of Accountants.

IPSAS 12 *Inventories* (June 2001) is drawn primarily from IAS 2 (revised 1993). The main differences between IAS 2 and IPSAS 12 are incorporated as not-for-profit requirements in AASB 102.

## ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 102

The Australian Accounting Standards Board makes Accounting Standard AASB 102 *Inventories* under section 334 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Dated 15 July 2004

D.G. Boymal  
Chair – AASB

## ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 102

### *INVENTORIES*

#### **Objective**

1. The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment for *inventories*. A primary issue in accounting for inventories is the amount of cost to be recognised as an asset and carried forward until the related revenues are recognised. This Standard provides guidance on the determination of cost and its subsequent recognition as an expense, including any write-down to *net realisable value*. It also provides guidance on the cost formulas that are used to assign costs to inventories.

#### **Application**

**Aus1.1 This Standard applies to:**

- (a) each entity that is required to prepare financial reports in accordance with Part 2M.3 of the Corporations Act and that is a reporting entity;
- (b) general purpose financial reports of each other reporting entity; and
- (c) financial reports that are, or are held out to be, general purpose financial reports.

**Aus1.2 This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.**

**Aus1.3 This Standard shall not be applied to annual reporting periods beginning before 1 January 2005.**

- Aus1.4** The requirements specified in this Standard apply to the financial report where information resulting from their application is material in accordance with AASB 1031 *Materiality*.
- Aus1.5** When applicable, this Standard supersedes:
- (a) AASB 1019 *Inventories* as notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No S 132, 26 March 1998; and
  - (b) AAS 2 *Inventories* as issued in March 1998.
- Aus1.6** Both AASB 1019 and AAS 2 remain applicable until superseded by this Standard.
- Aus1.7** Notice of this Standard was published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No S 294, 22 July 2004.

## Scope

- 2. This Standard applies to all inventories, except:**
- (a) work in progress arising under construction contracts, including directly related service contracts (see AASB 111 *Construction Contracts*);
  - (b) financial instruments; and
  - (c) biological assets related to agricultural activity and agricultural produce at the point of harvest (see AASB 141 *Agriculture*).
- Aus2.1** Notwithstanding paragraph 2, in respect of *not-for-profit entities*, this Standard does not apply to work in progress of services to be provided for no or nominal consideration directly in return from the recipients.
- 3. This Standard does not apply to the measurement of inventories held by:**
- (a) producers of agricultural and forest products, agricultural produce after harvest, and minerals and mineral products, to the extent that they are measured at net realisable value in accordance with well-established practices in those industries. When such inventories are measured at net

**realisable value, changes in that value are recognised in profit or loss in the period of the change; and**

**(b) commodity broker-traders who measure their inventories at *fair value* less costs to sell. When such inventories are measured at fair value less costs to sell, changes in fair value less costs to sell are recognised in profit or loss in the period of the change.**

4. The inventories referred to in paragraph 3(a) are measured at net realisable value at certain stages of production. This occurs, for example, when agricultural crops have been harvested or minerals have been extracted and sale is assured under a forward contract or a government guarantee, or when an active market exists and there is a negligible risk of failure to sell. These inventories are excluded from only the measurement requirements of this Standard.
5. Broker-traders are those who buy or sell commodities for others or on their own account. The inventories referred to in paragraph 3(b) are principally acquired with the purpose of selling in the near future and generating a profit from fluctuations in price or broker-traders' margin. When these inventories are measured at fair value less costs to sell, they are excluded from only the measurement requirements of this Standard.

## **Definitions**

6. **The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified.**

***Fair value* is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.**

***Inventories* are assets:**

- (a) **held for sale in the ordinary course of business;**
- (b) **in the process of production for such sale; or**
- (c) **in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed in the production process or in the rendering of services.**

***Net realisable value* is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.**

**Aus6.1** The following terms are also used in this Standard with the meanings specified.

**A *not-for-profit entity* is an entity whose principal objective is not the generation of profit. A not-for-profit entity can be a single entity or a group of entities comprising the parent entity and each of the entities that it controls.**

**In respect of not-for-profit entities, *current replacement cost* is the cost the entity would incur to acquire the asset on the reporting date.**

**In respect of not-for-profit entities, *inventories held for distribution* are assets:**

- (a) held for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of operations;**
- (b) in the process of production for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of operations; or**
- (c) in the form of materials or supplies to be consumed in the production process or in the rendering of services at no or nominal consideration.<sup>1</sup>**

7. Net realisable value refers to the net amount that an entity expects to realise from the sale of inventory in the ordinary course of business. Fair value reflects the amount for which the same inventory could be exchanged between knowledgeable and willing buyers and sellers in the marketplace. The former is an entity-specific value; the latter is not. Net realisable value for inventories may not equal fair value less costs to sell.

8. Inventories encompass goods purchased and held for resale including, for example, merchandise purchased by a retailer and held for resale, or land and other property held for resale. Inventories also encompass finished goods produced, or work in progress being produced, by the entity and include materials and supplies awaiting use in the production process. In the case of a service provider, inventories include the costs of the service, as described in paragraph 19, for which

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraphs 10 to 18 and 20 to 27 in this Standard apply to both inventories (as defined in paragraph 6) and inventories held for distribution (as defined in paragraph Aus6.1).

the entity has not yet recognised the related revenue (see AASB 118 *Revenue*).

- Aus8.1 A not-for-profit entity may hold inventories whose future economic benefits or service potential are not directly related to their ability to generate net cash inflows. These types of inventories may arise when an entity has determined to distribute certain goods at no charge or for a nominal amount. In these cases, the future economic benefits or service potential of the inventory for financial reporting purposes is reflected by the amount the entity would need to pay to acquire the economic benefits or service potential if this was necessary to achieve the objectives of the entity. Where the economic benefits or service potential cannot be acquired in the market, an estimate of replacement cost will need to be made. If the purpose for which the inventory is held changes, then the inventory is valued using the provisions of paragraph 9.
- Aus8.2 The replacement cost that an entity would be prepared to incur in respect of an item of inventory would reflect any obsolescence or any other impairment.

## Measurement of Inventories

- 9. Inventories shall be measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.**

**Aus9.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 9, in respect of not-for-profit entities, *inventories held for distribution* shall be measured at the lower of cost and *current replacement cost*.**

## Cost of Inventories

- 10. The cost of inventories shall comprise all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition.**

**Aus10.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 10, in respect of not-for-profit entities, where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, the cost shall be the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.**

## Costs of Purchase

11. The costs of purchase of inventories comprise the purchase price, import duties and other taxes (other than those subsequently

recoverable by the entity from the taxing authorities), and transport, handling and other costs directly attributable to the acquisition of finished goods, materials and services. Trade discounts, rebates and other similar items are deducted in determining the costs of purchase.

### **Costs of Conversion**

12. The costs of conversion of inventories include costs directly related to the units of production, such as direct labour. They also include a systematic allocation of fixed and variable production overheads that are incurred in converting materials into finished goods. Fixed production overheads are those indirect costs of production that remain relatively constant regardless of the volume of production, such as depreciation and maintenance of factory buildings and equipment, and the cost of factory management and administration. Variable production overheads are those indirect costs of production that vary directly, or nearly directly, with the volume of production, such as indirect materials and indirect labour.
13. The allocation of fixed production overheads to the costs of conversion is based on the normal capacity of the production facilities. Normal capacity is the production expected to be achieved on average over a number of periods or seasons under normal circumstances, taking into account the loss of capacity resulting from planned maintenance. The actual level of production may be used if it approximates normal capacity. The amount of fixed overhead allocated to each unit of production is not increased as a consequence of low production or idle plant. Unallocated overheads are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred. In periods of abnormally high production, the amount of fixed overhead allocated to each unit of production is decreased so that inventories are not measured above cost. Variable production overheads are allocated to each unit of production on the basis of the actual use of the production facilities.
14. A production process may result in more than one product being produced simultaneously. This is the case, for example, when joint products are produced or when there is a main product and a by-product. When the costs of conversion of each product are not separately identifiable, they are allocated between the products on a rational and consistent basis. The allocation may be based, for example, on the relative sales value of each product either at the stage in the production process when the products become separately identifiable, or at the completion of production. Most by-products, by their nature, are immaterial. When this is the case, they are often measured at net realisable value and this value is deducted from the cost of the main product. As a result, the carrying amount of the main product is not materially different from its cost.

## Other Costs

15. Other costs are included in the cost of inventories only to the extent that they are incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. For example, it may be appropriate to include non-production overheads or the costs of designing products for specific customers in the cost of inventories.
16. Examples of costs excluded from the cost of inventories and recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred are:
  - (a) abnormal amounts of wasted materials, labour or other production costs;
  - (b) storage costs, unless those costs are necessary in the production process before a further production stage;
  - (c) administrative overheads that do not contribute to bringing inventories to their present location and condition; and
  - (d) selling costs.
17. AASB 123 *Borrowing Costs* identifies limited circumstances where borrowing costs are included in the cost of inventories.
18. An entity may purchase inventories on deferred settlement terms. When the arrangement effectively contains a financing element, that element, for example a difference between the purchase price for normal credit terms and the amount paid, is recognised as interest expense over the period of the financing.

## Cost of Inventories of a Service Provider

19. To the extent that service providers have inventories, they measure them at the costs of their production. These costs consist primarily of the labour and other costs of personnel directly engaged in providing the service, including supervisory personnel, and attributable overheads. Labour and other costs relating to sales and general administrative personnel are not included but are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred. The cost of inventories of a service provider does not include profit margins or non-attributable overheads that are often factored into prices charged by service providers.

## **Cost of Agricultural Produce Harvested from Biological Assets**

20. In accordance with AASB 141 *Agriculture*, inventories comprising agricultural produce that an entity has harvested from its biological assets are measured on initial recognition at their fair value less estimated point-of-sale costs at the point of harvest. This is the cost of the inventories at that date for application of this Standard.

## **Techniques for the Measurement of Cost**

21. Techniques for the measurement of the cost of inventories, such as the standard cost method or the retail method, may be used for convenience if the results approximate cost. Standard costs take into account normal levels of materials and supplies, labour, efficiency and capacity utilisation. They are regularly reviewed and, if necessary, revised in the light of current conditions.
22. The retail method is often used in the retail industry for measuring inventories of large numbers of rapidly changing items with similar margins for which it is impracticable to use other costing methods. The cost of the inventory is determined by reducing the sales value of the inventory by the appropriate percentage gross margin. The percentage used takes into consideration inventory that has been marked down to below its original selling price. An average percentage for each retail department is often used.

## **Cost Formulas**

23. **The cost of inventories of items that are not ordinarily interchangeable and goods or services produced and segregated for specific projects shall be assigned by using specific identification of their individual costs.**
24. Specific identification of cost means that specific costs are attributed to identified items of inventory. This is the appropriate treatment for items that are segregated for a specific project, regardless of whether they have been bought or produced. However, specific identification of costs is inappropriate when there are large numbers of items of inventory that are ordinarily interchangeable. In such circumstances, the method of selecting those items that remain in inventories could be used to obtain predetermined effects on profit or loss.
25. **The cost of inventories, other than those dealt with in paragraph 23, shall be assigned by using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) or weighted average cost formula. An entity shall use the**

**same cost formula for all inventories having a similar nature and use to the entity. For inventories with a different nature or use, different cost formulas may be justified.**

26. For example, inventories used in one business segment may have a use to the entity different from the same type of inventories used in another business segment. However, a difference in geographical location of inventories (or in the respective tax rules), by itself, is not sufficient to justify the use of different cost formulas.
27. The FIFO formula assumes that the items of inventory that were purchased or produced first are sold first, and consequently the items remaining in inventory at the end of the period are those most recently purchased or produced. Under the weighted average cost formula, the cost of each item is determined from the weighted average of the cost of similar items at the beginning of a period and the cost of similar items purchased or produced during the period. The average may be calculated on a periodic basis, or as each additional shipment is received, depending upon the circumstances of the entity.

## **Net Realisable Value**

28. The cost of inventories may not be recoverable if those inventories are damaged, if they have become wholly or partially obsolete, or if their selling prices have declined. The cost of inventories may also not be recoverable if the estimated costs of completion or the estimated costs to be incurred to make the sale have increased. The practice of writing inventories down below cost to net realisable value is consistent with the view that assets shall not be carried in excess of amounts expected to be realised from their sale or use.
29. Inventories are usually written down to net realisable value item by item. In some circumstances, however, it may be appropriate to group similar or related items. This may be the case with items of inventory relating to the same product line that have similar purposes or end uses, are produced and marketed in the same geographical area, and cannot be practicably evaluated separately from other items in that product line. It is not appropriate to write inventories down on the basis of a classification of inventory, for example, finished goods, or all the inventories in a particular industry or geographical segment. Service providers generally accumulate costs in respect of each service for which a separate selling price is charged. Therefore, each such service is treated as a separate item.
30. Estimates of net realisable value are based on the most reliable evidence available at the time the estimates are made, of the amount

the inventories are expected to realise. These estimates take into consideration fluctuations of price or cost directly relating to events occurring after the end of the period to the extent that such events confirm conditions existing at the end of the period.

31. Estimates of net realisable value also take into consideration the purpose for which the inventory is held. For example, the net realisable value of the quantity of inventory held to satisfy firm sales or service contracts is based on the contract price. If the sales contracts are for less than the inventory quantities held, the net realisable value of the excess is based on general selling prices. Provisions may arise from firm sales contracts in excess of inventory quantities held or from firm purchase contracts. Such provisions are dealt with under *AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.
32. Materials and other supplies held for use in the production of inventories are not written down below cost if the finished products in which they will be incorporated are expected to be sold at or above cost. However, when a decline in the price of materials indicates that the cost of the finished products exceeds net realisable value, the materials are written down to net realisable value. In such circumstances, the replacement cost of the materials may be the best available measure of their net realisable value.
33. A new assessment is made of net realisable value in each subsequent period. When the circumstances that previously caused inventories to be written down below cost no longer exist or when there is clear evidence of an increase in net realisable value because of changed economic circumstances, the amount of the write-down is reversed (i.e. the reversal is limited to the amount of the original write-down) so that the new carrying amount is the lower of the cost and the revised net realisable value. This occurs, for example, when an item of inventory that is carried at net realisable value, because its selling price has declined, is still on hand in a subsequent period and its selling price has increased.

## **Recognition as an Expense**

34. **When inventories are sold, the carrying amount of those inventories shall be recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised. The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realisable value and all losses of inventories shall be recognised as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories, arising from an increase in net realisable value, shall be recognised as a reduction in the amount**

of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.

- Aus34.1** When inventories held for distribution by a not-for-profit entity are distributed, the carrying amount of those inventories shall be recognised as an expense. The amount of any write-down of inventories to current replacement cost and all losses of inventories shall be recognised as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories arising from an increase in current replacement cost shall be recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.
35. Some inventories may be allocated to other asset accounts, for example, inventory used as a component of self-constructed property, plant or equipment. Inventories allocated to another asset in this way are recognised as an expense during the useful life of that asset.

## **Disclosure**

- 36. The financial report shall disclose:**
- (a) the accounting policies adopted in measuring inventories, including the cost formula used;**
  - (b) the total carrying amount of inventories and the carrying amount in classifications appropriate to the entity;**
  - (c) the carrying amount of inventories carried at fair value less costs to sell;**
  - (d) the amount of inventories recognised as an expense during the period;**
  - (e) the amount of any write-down of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in accordance with paragraph 34;**
  - (f) the amount of any reversal of any write-down that is recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as expense in the period in accordance with paragraph 34;**
  - (g) the circumstances or events that led to the reversal of a write-down of inventories in accordance with paragraph 34; and**

- (h) **the carrying amount of inventories pledged as security for liabilities.**

**Aus36.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 36, in respect of not-for-profit entities, the financial report shall disclose:**

- (a) **the accounting policies adopted in measuring inventories held for distribution, including the cost formula used;**
  - (b) **the total carrying amount of inventories held for distribution and the carrying amount in classifications appropriate to the entity;**
  - (c) **the amount of inventories held for distribution recognised as an expense during the period in accordance with paragraph Aus34.1;**
  - (d) **the amount of any write-down of inventories held for distribution recognised as an expense in the period in accordance with paragraph Aus34.1;**
  - (e) **the amount of any reversal of any write-down that is recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories held for distribution recognised as expense in the period in accordance with paragraph Aus34.1;**
  - (f) **the circumstances or events that led to the reversal of a write-down of inventories held for distribution in accordance with paragraph Aus34.1; and**
  - (g) **the carrying amount of inventories held for distribution pledged as security for liabilities.**
37. Information about the carrying amounts held in different classifications of inventories and the extent of the changes in these assets is useful to financial report users. Common classifications of inventories are merchandise, production supplies, materials, work in progress and finished goods. The inventories of a service provider may be described as work in progress.
38. The amount of inventories recognised as an expense during the period, which is often referred to as cost of sales, consists of those costs previously included in the measurement of inventory that has now been sold and unallocated production overheads and abnormal amounts of production costs of inventories. The circumstances of the entity may also warrant the inclusion of other amounts, such as distribution costs.

39. Some entities adopt a format for profit or loss that results in amounts being disclosed other than the cost of inventories recognised as an expense during the period. Under this format, an entity presents an analysis of expenses using a classification based on the nature of expenses. In this case, the entity discloses the costs recognised as an expense for raw materials and consumables, labour costs and other costs together with the amount of the net change in inventories for the period.

### **Effective Date of IAS 2**

40. [Deleted by the AASB]

### **Withdrawal of Other Pronouncements**

41. [Deleted by the AASB]  
42. [Deleted by the AASB]