

ACCOUNTING STANDARD

AASB 1048

December 2004

Interpretation and Application of Standards



Australian Government

**Australian Accounting
Standards Board**

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Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards* is set out in paragraphs 1 – 10. All the paragraphs have equal authority. 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 1048

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. In considering the adoption of the Standards of the IASB, the AASB reached the conclusion that it was desirable to issue an Accounting Standard clarifying the status of the pronouncements of the Urgent Issues Group, the UIG Interpretations (previously known as UIG Abstracts), that are approved by the AASB.

All UIG Interpretations have the same authoritative status and those that are equivalent to the IASB Interpretations must be applied to achieve compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) of the IASB.

The IASB defines 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) UIG Interpretations issued by the AASB corresponding to the Interpretations adopted by the IASB, as listed in AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards*.

Before identifying the main features of this Standard, the adoption of the IASB Standards is described and the need for a 'service Standard' like this is explained.

Adoption of IASB Standards

In implementing the Financial Reporting Council's policy, the AASB is replacing relevant existing AASB Standards with Australian Standards

equivalent to those of the IASB. 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.

This Standard complements the set of Australian equivalents to each IASB Standard (IFRS and IAS) and Interpretation of the IASB. This set includes UIG Interpretations that correspond to the IASB Interpretations originated by the IFRIC or the SIC. When considering the most effective approach to implementing the FRC directive, the AASB decided that Australian-source documents were needed to provide equivalents to the IASB Interpretations, and that these should be UIG Interpretations. Correlation between the UIG Interpretations and the IASB Interpretations is provided in Table 1 of this Standard. This Standard will be re-issued when necessary to bring the correlation up to date.

Need for a Service Standard

In the Australian context, UIG Interpretations do not have the same legal status as Standards (delegated legislation) and are treated as ‘external documents’ by the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* (and also by the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*). Although references in one Standard to a second Standard are ambulatory (automatically moving forward to refer to the most recently-issued version of the second Standard), references in a Standard to external documents are stationary (being fixed in time to refer to the contents of the external document when the Standard was issued). A reference to an UIG Interpretation in an AASB Standard issued earlier (for example, in July 2004) than the reporting date at the end of the first effective reporting period can only refer to the Interpretation that existed then (in July 2004). It cannot refer to any revised version of the UIG Interpretation that may exist at the nominated reporting date (for example, 30 June 2006). However, an AASB Standard can be issued in July 2004, referring to a second AASB Standard (existing in July 2004) and, when the first Standard is applied at 30 June 2006, the reference will be to the then-current version of the second Standard (even if it has been re-issued after July 2004).

After analysing the issues, the AASB decided the service Standard approach constitutes the most effective way to ensure that the compliance required in the Australian equivalent of IFRS 1, AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*, has the same meaning as intended in IFRS 1.

The service Standard approach involves issuing an AASB Standard listing the UIG Interpretations corresponding to each IASB Interpretation, and referring to that Standard in every other AASB Standard where necessary to refer to an UIG Interpretation. This enables references to UIG Interpretations in all other AASB Standards to be updated by re-issuing the service Standard.

This approach preserves the status of UIG Interpretations as ‘external documents’ referred to in a Standard, with the ‘contents’ fixed in time to that existing when the Standard takes effect. It does not treat the UIG Interpretations as delegated legislation or confer ambulatory power on the reference. In each AASB Standard where there is a need to refer to an Australian equivalent of an IASB Interpretation, the reference will be to this Standard, phrased as “*UIG Interpretation (number) (title) identified in AASB 1048 as corresponding to IFRIC (or SIC) (number)*”. This reference, being to another AASB Standard, is ambulatory and will refer to the Standard, AASB 1048, that is in force from time to time. AASB 1048 itself will contain the direct references to the external documents and it will be re-issued recurrently to keep all references to UIG Interpretations in the other Standards up to date.

Implementation of this approach to determining the status of UIG Interpretations ensures there is no difference between the status in the hierarchy accorded to Interpretations in IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* compared to AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*.

A further advantage of this approach, compared to alternative approaches, is that it is able to be combined with implementing the perceived need for an AASB Standard clarifying the status of all UIG Interpretations, irrespective of whether they correspond to an IASB Interpretation.

Main Features of this Standard

Application Date

This Standard is applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. To be consistent with the position for AASB Standards equivalent to IFRSs, early adoption of this Standard is not permitted. This Standard (issued December 2004) supersedes the earlier version issued on 15 July 2004.

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. AASB 1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*, the Australian equivalent of IFRS 1, requires prior period information, presented as comparative information, to be restated as if the requirements of the Australian equivalents to IFRSs (including those UIG Interpretations equivalent to the IASB Interpretations) had always applied. This differs from the requirements in previous Australian Standards, where changes in accounting policies did not require the restatement of the income statement and balance sheet of the preceding period.

Main Requirements

This Standard identifies the UIG Interpretations and classifies them into two groups: those that correspond to each IASB Interpretation and those that do not.

In respect of the first group (Table 1), it is necessary for those UIG Interpretations, where relevant, to be applied in order for an entity to be able to make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). The IASB defines IFRSs to include the IFRIC and SIC Interpretations.

In the second group (Table 2), this Standard lists the other UIG Interpretations, that do not correspond to the IASB Interpretations, to assist financial report preparers and users to identify the other authoritative pronouncements necessary for compliance in the Australian context.

The Standard will be re-issued when necessary to keep the Tables up to date.

Changes from AASB 1048 issued July 2004

The differences between the original AASB 1048 (issued 15 July 2004) and this version of the Standard are as follows.

Table 1: Replacement

UIG Interpretation 112 *Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities* (issued July 2004) is replaced by the version approved by the AASB in December 2004.

Table 2: Additions

UIG Interpretation <i>Issue Date</i>	Title
UIG Interpretation 1017 <i>November 2004</i>	Developer and Customer Contributions for Connection to a Price-Regulated Network
UIG Interpretation 1019 <i>September 2004</i>	The Superannuation Contributions Surcharge
UIG Interpretation 1030 <i>September 2004</i>	Depreciation of Long-Lived Physical Assets: Condition-Based Depreciation and Related Methods
UIG Interpretation 1038 <i>September 2004</i>	Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities
UIG Interpretation 1042 <i>December 2004</i>	Subscriber Acquisition Costs in the Telecommunications Industry
UIG Interpretation 1047 <i>November 2004</i>	Professional Indemnity Claims Liabilities in Medical Defence Organisations
UIG Interpretation 1055 <i>September 2004</i>	Accounting for Road Earthworks

COMPARISON WITH INTERNATIONAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

AASB 1048 and IASB Pronouncements

There is no IASB Standard equivalent to AASB 1048. However, Table 1 in AASB 1048 (see paragraph 9) contains a list of UIG Interpretations identifying the corresponding IASB Interpretations.

Compliance with IFRSs

Entities that apply the UIG Interpretations designated in this Standard as corresponding to the IASB Interpretations will simultaneously be in compliance with the Interpretations referred to by the IASB in its definition of IFRSs. Such compliance is one of the prerequisites that needs to be met before an entity can make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with IFRSs, as described in IFRS 1 (paragraph 3).

AASB 1048 and IPSASs

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

There is no IPSAS equivalent to AASB 1048. Further, there are no Interpretations issued or adopted by the PSC that are equivalent to the IASB Interpretations or the UIG Interpretations.

ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 1048

The Australian Accounting Standards Board makes Accounting Standard AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards* under section 334 of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Dated 9 December 2004

D.G. Boymal
Chair – AASB

ACCOUNTING STANDARD AASB 1048

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF STANDARDS

Objective

- 1 The objective of this Standard is to provide an up-to-date listing of UIG Interpretations and to ensure the effectiveness of references in AASB Standards to UIG Interpretations.

Application

- 2 **This Standard applies to:**
 - (a) **each entity that is required to prepare financial reports in accordance with Part 2M.3 of the Corporations Act;**
 - (b) **general purpose financial reports of each reporting entity; and**
 - (c) **financial reports that are, or are held out to be, general purpose financial reports.**
- 3 **This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.**
- 3.1 **This Standard supersedes AASB 1048 *Interpretation and Application of Standards* as notified in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No S 294, 22 July 2004.**
- 4 **This Standard shall not be applied to annual reporting periods beginning before 1 January 2005.**

5 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*.

6 Notice of this Standard was published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No S 507, 13 December 2004.

Scope

7 This Standard refers to all UIG Interpretations currently approved by the AASB, classified according to whether or not they correspond to Interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

8 For ease of presentation, the UIG Interpretations are set out in two separate tables: in paragraph 9, Table 1 lists those corresponding to IASB Interpretations and, in paragraph 10, Table 2 lists the other UIG Interpretations. Each reference to an UIG Interpretation in a row in each of the Tables 1 and 2 is to be treated as a separate provision of this Standard.

UIG Interpretations corresponding to IASB Interpretations

9 An entity shall apply each relevant UIG Interpretation listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: UIG Interpretations corresponding to IASB Interpretations

UIG Interpretation <i>Issue Date</i>	Title	IFRIC or SIC
UIG Interpretation 1 <i>July 2004</i>	Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Liabilities	IFRIC 1
UIG Interpretation 107 <i>July 2004</i>	Introduction of the Euro	SIC-7
UIG Interpretation 110 <i>July 2004</i>	Government Assistance – No Specific Relation to Operating Activities	SIC-10
UIG Interpretation 112 <i>December 2004</i>	Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities	SIC-12
UIG Interpretation 113 <i>July 2004</i>	Jointly Controlled Entities – Non-Monetary Contributions by Venturers	SIC-13
UIG Interpretation 115 <i>July 2004</i>	Operating Leases – Incentives	SIC-15

Table 1: UIG Interpretations corresponding to IASB Interpretations

UIG Interpretation <i>Issue Date</i>	Title	IFRIC or SIC
UIG Interpretation 121 <i>July 2004</i>	Income Taxes – Recovery of Revalued Non-Depreciable Assets	SIC-21
UIG Interpretation 125 <i>July 2004</i>	Income Taxes – Changes in the Tax Status of an Entity or its Shareholders	SIC-25
UIG Interpretation 127 <i>July 2004</i>	Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease	SIC-27
UIG Interpretation 129 <i>July 2004</i>	Disclosure – Service Concession Arrangements	SIC-29
UIG Interpretation 131 <i>July 2004</i>	Revenue – Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services	SIC-31
UIG Interpretation 132 <i>July 2004</i>	Intangible Assets – Web Site Costs	SIC-32

Other UIG Interpretations

10 An entity shall apply each relevant UIG Interpretation listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Other UIG Interpretations

UIG Interpretation <i>Issue Date</i>	Title
UIG Interpretation 1017 <i>November 2004</i>	Developer and Customer Contributions for Connection to a Price-Regulated Network
UIG Interpretation 1019 <i>September 2004</i>	The Superannuation Contributions Surcharge
UIG Interpretation 1030 <i>September 2004</i>	Depreciation of Long-Lived Physical Assets: Condition-Based Depreciation and Related Methods
UIG Interpretation 1031 <i>July 2004</i>	Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
UIG Interpretation 1038 <i>September 2004</i>	Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities
UIG Interpretation 1039 <i>July 2004</i>	Substantive Enactment of Major Tax Bills in Australia

Table 2: Other UIG Interpretations

UIG Interpretation <i>Issue Date</i>	Title
UIG Interpretation 1042 <i>December 2004</i>	Subscriber Acquisition Costs in the Telecommunications Industry
UIG Interpretation 1047 <i>November 2004</i>	Professional Indemnity Claims Liabilities in Medical Defence Organisations
UIG Interpretation 1055 <i>September 2004</i>	Accounting for Road Earthworks