

**International Financial Reporting Standard**

# Disclosure Initiative

**December 2014**

**BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS – AMENDMENTS**

**[IAS 1]**

**[Related to AASB 2015-2]**

International Financial Reporting Standards together with their accompanying documents are issued by the IFRS Foundation.

**COPYRIGHT**

Copyright © 2014 IFRS Foundation.

Reproduction of this extract within Australia in unaltered form (retaining this notice) is permitted for non-commercial use subject to the inclusion of an acknowledgment of the IFRS Foundation's copyright.

All other rights reserved. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and rights for commercial purposes within Australia or for any purpose outside Australia should be addressed to the IFRS Foundation at [www.ifrs.org](http://www.ifrs.org).

## Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

Paragraphs BC30A–BC30J and their related heading are added. Paragraphs BC38A–BC38I and their related heading are renumbered to paragraphs BC38H–BC38P and paragraphs BC38A–BC38G and their related heading are added. Paragraphs BC54K–BC54L and paragraphs BC58A–BC58B, BC76A–BC76G and BC105C–BC105F and their related headings are also added. New text is underlined.

### **Materiality and aggregation (paragraphs 29–31)**

- BC30A** The Board was informed at the Discussion Forum *Financial Reporting Disclosure* in January 2013, in its related survey and by other sources, that there are difficulties applying the concept of materiality in practice. Some are of the view that these difficulties contribute to a disclosure problem, namely, that there is both too much irrelevant information and not enough relevant information in financial statements. A number of factors have been identified for why materiality may not be applied well in practice. One of these is that the guidance on materiality in IFRS is not clear.
- BC30B** Some think that the statement in IAS 1 that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure if the information is not material means that an entity does not need to present an item in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity, but must instead disclose it in the notes. However, the Board noted that the concept of materiality is applicable to financial statements, which include the notes, and not only to those statements.
- BC30C** Some are of the view that when IFRS states that a specific disclosure is required, the concept of materiality does not apply to those disclosure requirements, ie disclosures specifically identified in IFRS are required irrespective of whether they result in material information. In addition, some people think that when a line item is presented, or a material item is otherwise recognised, in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and the statement of financial position, all the disclosures in IFRS specified for that item must be disclosed. The Board observed that paragraph 31 of IAS 1 is clear that the concept of materiality applies to specific disclosures required by an IFRS and therefore an entity does not have to disclose information required by an IFRS if that information would not be material.
- BC30D** The Board understands that these misconceptions may have arisen because of the wording that is used when specifying presentation or disclosure requirements in IFRS; for example, the use of the words ‘as a minimum’. For this reason, the Board removed the phrase ‘as a minimum’ in paragraph 54 of IAS 1, which lists line items for presentation in the statement of financial position. This also makes the requirement broadly consistent with the corresponding requirement in paragraph 82 of IAS 1 for the profit or loss section of the statement of comprehensive income or the statement of profit or loss.

- BC30E On the basis of its observations and conclusions set out in paragraphs BC30A–BC30D, the Board added a new paragraph, paragraph 30A, and amended paragraph 31 of IAS 1.
- BC30F Paragraph 30A was added to IAS 1 to highlight that when an entity decides how it aggregates information in the financial statements, it should take into consideration all relevant facts and circumstances. Paragraph 30A emphasises that an entity should not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by providing immaterial information that obscures the material information in financial statements or by aggregating material items that have different natures or functions. Obscuring material information with immaterial information in financial statements makes the material information less visible and therefore makes the financial statements less understandable. The amendments do not actually prohibit entities from disclosing immaterial information, because the Board thinks that such a requirement would not be operational; however, the amendments emphasise that disclosure should not result in material information being obscured.
- BC30G The Exposure Draft *Disclosure Initiative* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1) (the ‘March 2014 Exposure Draft’), which was published in March 2014, also proposed that an entity should not ‘disaggregate’ information in a manner that obscures useful information. Disaggregation is often used to describe the process of expanding totals, subtotals and line items into further items that themselves may reflect the aggregated results of transactions or other events. Because the process of expanding totals, subtotals and line items is more likely to increase the transparency of information rather than obscuring it, the Board decided not to include the term disaggregation in paragraph 30A of IAS 1. In addition, the Board was of the view that items resulting from the process of disaggregation that themselves reflect the aggregated results of transactions would be covered by paragraphs 29–31 of IAS 1.
- BC30H The Board amended paragraph 31 of IAS 1 to highlight that materiality also applies to disclosures specifically required by IFRS. In addition, to highlight that materiality not only involves decisions about excluding information from the financial statements, the Board amended paragraph 31 to reiterate the notion already stated in paragraph 17(c) of IAS 1 that materiality also involves decisions about whether to include additional information in the financial statements. Consequently, an entity should make additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRS is insufficient to enable users of financial statements to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity’s financial position and financial performance.
- BC30I The Board noted that the definition of ‘material’ in paragraph 7 of IAS 1 discusses omissions or misstatements of items being material if they could individually or collectively influence economic decisions. The Board considered making amendments to paragraph 31 of IAS 1 to say that an entity need not provide a specific disclosure if the information provided by that disclosure is not material, either individually or collectively. However, the Board decided not to make that change since the definition of material already incorporates the notions of individual and collective assessment and, therefore, reference to the term material in paragraph 31 is sufficient to incorporate this concept.

BC30J In the March 2014 Exposure Draft the Board proposed to use the term ‘present’ to refer to line items, subtotals and totals on the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity, and the term ‘disclose’ to mean information in the notes. However, respondents to the March 2014 Exposure Draft did not support the distinction between present and disclose because they considered that the terminology has not been used consistently throughout IAS 1 and that any changes in how these terms are used should be done as part of a comprehensive review of IAS 1. Because of this, and because making such comprehensive changes to IAS 1 would be outside the scope of these amendments, the Board did not finalise the proposed changes regarding use of the terms present and disclose.

...

## Statement of financial position

### **Information to be presented in the statement of financial position (paragraphs 54–55A)**

BC38A Paragraph 54 of IAS 1 lists line items that are required to be presented in the statement of financial position. The Board has been informed that some have interpreted that list as prescriptive and that those line items cannot be disaggregated. There is also a perception by some that IFRS prevents them from presenting subtotals in addition to those specifically required by IFRS.

BC38B Paragraph 55 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present additional line items, headings and subtotals when their presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity’s financial position. This highlights that the line items listed for presentation in paragraph 54 of IAS 1 should be disaggregated and that subtotals should be presented, when relevant. Paragraphs 78 and 98 of IAS 1 give examples of potential disaggregations of line items in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

BC38C Consequently, the Board:

- (a) removed the wording ‘as a minimum’ from paragraph 54 of IAS 1 (see paragraph BC30D) to address the possible misconception that this wording prevents entities from aggregating the line items specified in paragraph 54 if those specified line items are immaterial; and
- (b) clarified that the presentation requirements in paragraphs 54–55 may be fulfilled by disaggregating a specified line item.

BC38D The Board noted that there are similar presentation requirements in paragraph 85 of IAS 1 for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The Board therefore amended those requirements to make them consistent.

BC38E Some respondents to the proposals suggested that the Board should make clear that the line items listed in paragraph 54 of IAS 1 are required ‘when material’. The Board decided not to state that the line items are only required when

material, because materiality is generally not referenced specifically in disclosure requirements in IFRS and so including a specific reference in this case could make it less clear that materiality applies to other disclosure requirements.

BC38F The Board understands that some are concerned about the presentation of subtotals, in addition to those specified in IFRS, in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Those with this concern think that some subtotals can be misleading, for example, because they are given undue prominence. The Board noted that paragraphs 55 and 85 of IAS 1 require the presentation of subtotals when such presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity's financial position or financial performance.

BC38G The Board therefore included additional requirements in IAS 1 to help entities apply paragraphs 55 and 85. These additional requirements supplement the existing guidance on fair presentation in paragraphs 15 and 17 of IAS 1. They are designed to clarify the factors that should be considered when fairly presenting subtotals in the statement of financial position and the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Specifically, the subtotal should:

- (a) be comprised of line items made up of amounts recognised and measured in accordance with IFRS.
- (b) be understandable. It should be clear what line items are included in the subtotal by the way that the subtotal is presented and labelled. For example, if an entity presents a commonly reported subtotal, but excludes items that would normally be considered as part of that subtotal, the label should reflect what has been excluded.
- (c) be consistent from period to period. The subtotal should be consistently presented and calculated from period to period (in accordance with paragraph 45 of IAS 1), subject to possible changes in accounting policy or estimates assessed in accordance with IAS 8.
- (d) not be displayed with more prominence than those subtotals and totals required in IFRS for either the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income or the statement of financial position.

## **Current assets and current liabilities (paragraphs 68 and 71)**

...

## **Reporting comprehensive income (paragraph 81)**

...

BC54K In 2013 the IFRS Interpretations Committee reported to the Board that there was uncertainty about the requirements in paragraph 82A of IAS 1 for presenting an entity's share of items of other comprehensive income of associates and joint

ventures accounted for using the equity method. The Board agreed that paragraph 82A allowed for diverse interpretations, and therefore decided to amend IAS 1 as follows:

- (a) to clarify that paragraph 82A requires entities to present the share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for using the equity method, separated into the share of items that:
  - (i) will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss; and
  - (ii) will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met.
- (b) to amend the Guidance on Implementing IAS 1 to reflect the clarification of paragraph 82A.

The Board noted that whether an amount is reclassified to profit or loss is determined by the nature of the underlying item. It also noted that the timing of reclassification is usually determined by the actions of the investee. It may however also be triggered by the investor, which would be the case on the disposal of the investee by the investor.

BC54L The feedback received on the March 2014 Exposure Draft included requests for the Board to clarify whether the investor's share of the other comprehensive income of its associate or joint venture should be presented net or gross of tax and the applicability of the guidance in paragraphs 90–91 of IAS 1 in this regard. The Board noted that an investor's share of other comprehensive income of associates or joint ventures is after tax and non-controlling interests of the associate or joint venture, as illustrated in the Guidance on Implementing IAS 1. It also noted that the disclosure requirements in paragraphs 90–91 do not apply to the tax of the associate or joint venture that is already reflected in the investor's share of other comprehensive income of the associate or joint venture. However, the Board noted that if the investor itself is liable for tax in respect of its share of other comprehensive income of the associate or joint venture, then paragraphs 90–91 would apply to this tax. Therefore, the Board decided not to add additional guidance to IAS 1 on this topic.

...

### **Information to be presented in the profit or loss section or the statement of profit or loss (paragraphs 85–85B)**

BC58A In December 2014 the Board issued *Disclosure Initiative (Amendments to IAS 1)*. Those amendments included amendments to paragraph 85 of IAS 1 and the addition of paragraph 85A. These amendments are consistent with similar amendments to the requirements for the statement of financial position and therefore the Basis for Conclusions for these amendments has been included in the section dealing with that statement (see paragraphs BC38A–BC38G).

BC58B In addition to those amendments, the Board decided to require entities to present line items in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income that reconcile any subtotals presented in accordance with paragraphs 85–85A of IAS 1 with those that are required in IFRS for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. Consequently, it added paragraph 85B

to IAS 1. The purpose of this requirement is to help users of financial statements understand the relationship between the subtotals presented in accordance with paragraph 85 and the specific totals and subtotals required in IFRS to address concerns that that relationship would not be clear. The Board noted that such a requirement is already implicit in existing IFRS requirements. IFRS requires entities to present aggregated information as line items when such presentation provides material information. Consequently, because all recognised items of income and expense must be included in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income totals, any intervening line items and subtotals necessarily reconcile. However, the Board decided to make the requirement more explicit for the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income to help users of financial statements understand the relationship between subtotals and totals presented in the statement(s) of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

...

## Notes

### Structure (paragraphs 112–116)

- BC76A** The Board is aware that some had interpreted paragraph 114 of IAS 1 as requiring a specific order for the notes. Paragraph 114 stated that ‘an entity normally presents notes in the [following] order’ and then listed a particular order for the notes. Some think that the use of ‘normally’ makes it difficult for an entity to vary the order of the notes from the one that is listed in paragraph 114; for example, by disclosing the notes in order of importance or disclosing related information together in sections.
- BC76B** Investors’ feedback indicates that some investors prefer an entity to vary the order of the notes from the one that is listed in paragraph 114 of IAS 1. Other investors would prefer entities to use that order because they think it will increase comparability between periods and across entities.
- BC76C** The Board considered the use of the word normally in paragraph 114 of IAS 1 and concluded that it was not intended that entities be required to disclose their notes in that order. Instead, it thinks that the order listed was intended to provide an example of how an entity could order the notes and that the term normal was not meant to imply that alternative ordering of the notes is ‘abnormal’. The Board therefore amended IAS 1 to clarify that the order listed in paragraph 114 is an example of how an entity could order or group its notes in a systematic manner. The Board also made amendments to clarify that significant accounting policies do not need to be disclosed in one note, but instead can be included with related information in other notes.
- BC76D** The Board also noted the requirement in paragraph 113 of IAS 1 for entities to, as far as practicable, present the notes in a systematic manner. In the Board’s view, this means that there must be a system or reason behind the ordering and grouping of the notes. For example, notes could be ordered by importance to the entity, in the order line items are presented in the financial statements or a combination of both. The Board amended paragraph 113 to clarify that an entity should consider the effect on the understandability and comparability of

its financial statements when determining the order of the notes. The Board acknowledged that there is a trade-off between understandability and comparability; for example, ordering notes to increase understandability could mean that comparability, including consistency, between entities and periods is reduced. In particular, the Board acknowledged that consistency in the order of the notes for a specific entity from period to period is important. The Board noted that it would generally be helpful for users of financial statements if the ordering of notes by an entity is consistent and noted that it does not expect the order of an entity's notes to change frequently. A change in the order of the notes previously determined to be an optimal mix of understandability and comparability should generally result from a specific event or transaction, such as a change in business. The Board also noted that the existing requirements in paragraph 45 of IAS 1 for consistency of presentation still apply.

BC76E The Board also observed that electronic versions of financial statements can make it easier to search for, locate and compare information within the financial statements, between periods and between entities.

### **Disclosure of accounting policies (paragraphs 117–121)**

BC76F Paragraph 117 of IAS 1 requires significant accounting policies to be disclosed and gives guidance, along with paragraphs 118–124 of IAS 1, about what a significant accounting policy could be. That guidance includes, as examples of significant accounting policies, the income taxes accounting policy and the foreign currency accounting policy.

BC76G Some suggested that it is not helpful to provide the income taxes accounting policy as an example of a policy that users of financial statements would expect to be disclosed. Being liable to income taxes is typical for many entities and it was not clear, from the example, what aspect of the entity's operations would make a user of financial statements expect an accounting policy on income taxes to be disclosed. Consequently, the example does not illustrate why an accounting policy on income taxes is significant. The Board also thought that the foreign currency accounting policy example in paragraph 120 of IAS 1 was unhelpful for the same reasons and therefore deleted the income taxes and foreign currency examples.

...

## **Transition and effective date**

---

...

### **Disclosure Initiative (Amendments to IAS 1)**

BC105C The Board decided that *Disclosure Initiative* (Amendments to IAS 1) should be applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016 with early application permitted.

BC105D The Board noted that these amendments clarify existing requirements in IAS 1. They provide additional guidance to assist entities to apply judgement when meeting the presentation and disclosure requirements in IFRS. These amendments do not affect recognition and measurement. They should not



result in the reassessment of the judgements about presentation and disclosure made in periods prior to the application of these amendments.

BC105E Paragraph 38 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present comparative information for all amounts reported in the current period financial statements and for narrative or descriptive information 'if it is relevant to understanding the current period's financial statements'. If an entity alters the order of the notes or the information presented or disclosed compared to the previous year, it also adjusts the comparative information to align with the current period presentation and disclosure. For that reason, IAS 1 already provides relief from having to disclose comparative information that is not considered relevant in the current period and requires comparative information for new amounts presented or disclosed in the current period.

BC105F The March 2014 Exposure Draft proposed that if an entity applies these amendments early that it should disclose that fact. However, the Board removed this requirement and stated in the transition provisions that an entity need not disclose the fact that it has applied these amendments (regardless of whether the amendments have been applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016 or if they have been applied early). This is because the Board considers that these amendments are clarifying amendments that do not directly affect an entity's accounting policies or accounting estimates. Similarly, an entity does not need to disclose the information required by paragraphs 28–30 of IAS 8 in relation to these amendments. The Board noted that if an entity decides to change its accounting policies as a result of applying these amendments then it would be required to follow the existing requirements in IAS 8 in relation to those accounting policy changes.