

**International Financial Reporting Standard**

# **Transfers of Investment Property (Amendments to IAS 40)**

**December 2016**

**BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS – AMENDMENTS**

**[IAS 40]**

**[Related to AASB 2017-1]**

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## Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on IAS 40 *Investment Property*

Paragraphs BC23–BC33 and their related headings are added.
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### Transfers of investment property

- BC23 The Board received a question regarding the application of paragraph 57, which specifies requirements on transfers to, or from, investment property. The question asked whether an entity transfers property under construction or development previously classified as inventory to investment property when there is evidence of a change in use, even if that evidence is not specifically listed in paragraph 57(a)–(d).
- BC24 Paragraph 57 requires transfers to, or from, investment property when, and only when, there is a change in use of property supported by evidence. The Board noted that the words ‘when, and only when’ in this paragraph are important to ensure that a transfer is limited to situations in which a change in use has occurred. The Board observed that the list of circumstances that provide evidence of a change in use specified in paragraph 57(a)–(d) of IAS 40 was drafted such that it was exhaustive (as shown by the references to ‘when and only when’ and ‘evidenced by’ in that paragraph).
- BC25 The Board decided, however, to amend paragraph 57 so that it reflects the principle that a change in use would involve (a) an assessment of whether a property meets, or has ceased to meet, the definition of investment property; and (b) supporting evidence that a change in use has occurred. Applying this principle, an entity transfers property under construction or development to, or from, investment property when, and only when, there is a change in the use of such property, supported by evidence.
- BC26 The Board also re-characterised the list of circumstances in paragraph 57(a)–(d) as a non-exhaustive list of examples to be consistent with the principle described in paragraph BC25.
- BC27 Respondents to the Board’s proposals asked whether management’s intended use of a property would provide sufficient evidence of a change in use of a property under construction or development. The Board decided to confirm in paragraph 57 that, in isolation, a change in management’s intentions would not be enough to support a transfer of property. This is because management’s intentions, alone, do not provide evidence of a change in use—an entity must have taken observable actions to support such a change.
- BC28 Some other respondents asked the Board to explain what provides substantive evidence of a change in use. The Board decided that such explanation is not needed. An entity assesses the specific facts and circumstances when applying paragraph 57, and paragraph 14 notes that judgement is needed to determine whether a property qualifies as investment property.

- BC29 Respondents agreed with the Board's decision to re-characterise the list of circumstances in paragraph 57(a)–(d). However, some respondents were concerned that this list appeared to apply only to completed properties and, thus, they suggested that the Board add examples for a change in use of properties under construction or development. In response, the Board decided to amend paragraph 57(a) (ie to include 'commencement of development with a view to owner-occupation') and paragraph 57(d) (ie to refer to 'inception' of an operating lease, because at this point the construction of the related property might not be complete).

### Transition

- BC30 The Board proposed that an entity apply the amendments retrospectively. However, some respondents disagreed. They said that retrospective application might be impossible for some entities without the use of hindsight, or could be complex and burdensome in some situations—for example, in determining the exact point at which there was evidence of a change in use in prior periods, or in obtaining fair values at transfer dates in the past. Those respondents suggested either prospective application or, alternatively, retrospective application with some practical expedients.
- BC31 In considering the comments, the Board observed the following:
- (a) the amounts recognised on the date of initial application would be unaffected by the transition approach for some previous changes in use, for example, transfers between investment property and owner-occupied property for entities that use the cost model.
  - (b) applying the amendments retrospectively could be complex or may require the use of hindsight for some previous changes in use, for example, transfers from investment property measured using the fair value model to owner-occupied property that occurred some considerable time ago.
  - (c) a prospective approach would require entities to apply the amendments only to changes in use that occur on or after the date of initial application. Such an approach might prevent an entity from reclassifying some property to reflect the conditions that exist on the date of initial application.
- BC32 To address the concerns raised, the Board developed the transition method in paragraph 84C to ease the burden of applying the amendments retrospectively and to ensure that, on transition, an entity classifies property consistently with the amended Standard. If an entity uses this transition method, the Board decided to require specific disclosure of any reclassification of property at the date of initial application as part of the reconciliation of the carrying amount of investment property that is already required to be provided. This disclosure informs users of financial statements about changes to the carrying amount of investment property at the date of transition that do not reflect an underlying change in use of the property at that date.
- BC33 The Board also noted that, depending on the properties held and previous changes in use that occurred, an entity may be able to apply the amendments

#### TRANSFERS OF INVESTMENT PROPERTY

retrospectively without the use of hindsight. If that is the case, the Board decided that the entity should not be prevented from doing so.