

Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date

Proposed amendments to AASB 101

Comments to the AASB by 22 May 2020



Australian Government

**Australian Accounting
Standards Board**

How to Comment on this AASB Exposure Draft

Constituents are strongly encouraged to respond to the AASB and the IASB. The AASB is seeking comment by 22 May 2020. This will enable the AASB to consider Australian constituents' comments in the process of formulating its own comments to the IASB, which are due by 3 June 2020.

Formal Submissions

Submissions should be lodged online via the “Work in Progress – Open for Comment” page of the AASB website (www.aasb.gov.au/comment) as a PDF document and, if possible, a Word document (for internal use only).

Other Feedback

Other feedback is welcomed and may be provided via the following methods:

E-mail: standard@asb.gov.au
Phone: (03) 9617 7600

All submissions on possible, proposed or existing financial reporting requirements, or on the standard-setting process, will be placed on the public record unless the Chair of the AASB agrees to submissions being treated as confidential. The latter will occur only if the public interest warrants such treatment.

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AASB REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) is proposing to defer amendments that it made to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* in January 2020. The AASB made those same amendments to AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* through AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current* (March 2020). The IASB proposes deferring the effective date of the amendments to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023, instead of 1 January 2022.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board's (AASB's) policy is to incorporate International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS Standards) into Australian Accounting Standards. Accordingly, the AASB is inviting comments on:

- (a) any of the proposals in the attached IASB Exposure Draft, including the specific questions on the proposals as listed in the Invitation to Comment section of the attached IASB Exposure Draft; and
- (b) the 'AASB Specific Matters for Comment' listed below.

AASB Specific Matters for Comment

The AASB would particularly value comments on the following:

1. whether there are any regulatory issues or other issues arising in the Australian environment that may affect the implementation of the proposals, particularly any issues relating to:
 - (a) not-for-profit entities; and
 - (b) public sector entities, including GAAP/GFS implications;
2. whether the proposals create any auditing or assurance challenges;
3. whether the proposals are in the best interests of the Australian economy; and
4. unless already provided in response to specific matters for comment 1 – 3 above, the costs and benefits of the proposals relative to the current requirements, whether quantitative (financial or non-financial) or qualitative. In relation to quantitative financial costs, the AASB is particularly seeking to know the nature(s) and estimated amount(s) of any expected incremental costs, or cost savings, of the proposals relative to the existing requirements.

May 2020

IFRS® Standards
Exposure Draft ED/2020/3

Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date

Proposed amendment to IAS 1

Comments to be received by 3 June 2020

IASB®

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Exposure Draft

Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date

Proposed amendment to IAS 1

Comments to be received by 3 June 2020

Exposure Draft ED/2020/3 *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date* is published by the International Accounting Standards Board (Board) for comment only. Comments need to be received by **3 June 2020** and should be submitted by email to commentletters@ifrs.org or online at <https://www.ifrs.org/projects/open-for-comment/>.

All comments will be on the public record and posted on our website at www.ifrs.org unless the respondent requests confidentiality. Such requests will not normally be granted unless supported by a good reason, for example, commercial confidence. Please see our website for details on this policy and on how we use your personal data.

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Invitation to comment

In January 2020 the International Accounting Standards Board (Board) issued *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*, which amended IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*. The Board published this Exposure Draft to propose deferring the effective date of those amendments to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Earlier application of those amendments would continue to be permitted.

The Board invites comments on the proposal in this Exposure Draft *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date*. Comments are most helpful if they:

- (a) address the question as stated;
- (b) indicate the specific paragraph(s) to which they relate;
- (c) contain a clear rationale;
- (d) identify any wording in the proposal that is difficult to translate; and
- (e) include any alternative the Board should consider, if applicable.

The Board is not requesting comments on matters in the amendments to IAS 1 issued in January 2020 that are not addressed in this Exposure Draft.

Question for respondents

Question
The Board proposes to defer the effective date of amendments to IAS 1, <i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i> , to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. Do you agree with the proposal? Why or why not?

Deadline

The Board will consider all comments received in writing by 3 June 2020.

How to comment

The IFRS Foundation's offices are closed temporarily in line with government measures to stem the covid-19 pandemic. However, we are working and will consider your views in finalising the proposed amendment. Please submit your comments electronically.

Online <https://www.ifrs.org/projects/open-for-comment/>

By email commentletters@ifrs.org

Your comments will be on the public record and posted on our website unless you request confidentiality and we grant your request. We do not normally grant such requests unless they are supported by a good reason, for example, commercial confidence. Please see our website for details on this policy and on how we use your personal data.

Next step

The Board will consider comments it receives on the proposal in this Exposure Draft and will decide whether to proceed with a deferral of the effective date of the amendments.

[Draft] Amendment to IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*

Paragraph 139U is amended. Deleted text is struck through and new text is underlined.

Transition and effective date

...

139U *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*, issued in January 2020 amended paragraphs 69, 73, 74 and 76 and added paragraphs 72A, 75A, 76A and 76B. An entity shall apply those amendments for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January ~~2022~~2023 retrospectively in accordance with IAS 8. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Approval by the Board of Exposure Draft *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date* published in May 2020

The Exposure Draft *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date*, which proposes an amendment to IAS 1, was approved for publication by all 14 members of the International Accounting Standards Board.

Hans Hoogervorst Chairman

Suzanne Lloyd Vice-Chair

Nick Anderson

Tadeu Cendon

Martin Edelmann

Françoise Flores

Gary Kabureck

Jianqiao Lu

Darrel Scott

Thomas Scott

Chungwoo Suh

Rika Suzuki

Ann Tarca

Mary Tokar

Basis for Conclusions on Exposure Draft *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current—Deferral of Effective Date*

This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, the proposed amendment. It summarises the considerations of the International Accounting Standards Board (Board) when developing the proposed amendment. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.

- BC1 In January 2020 the Board issued *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*, which amends IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, to clarify the requirements in IAS 1 for the presentation of liabilities. The Board noted that these amendments would result in some entities reclassifying debt from non-current to current, potentially affecting those entities' compliance with loan covenants. The effective date for the amendments was therefore set to allow affected entities enough time to renegotiate their debt covenants if necessary. The Board decided that an entity shall apply the amendments for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 retrospectively, in accordance with IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*.
- BC2 In April 2020 the Board discussed the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on financial reporting. The Board noted that the pandemic has created pressures that could delay the implementation of any changes in classification resulting from the application of these amendments. It could also delay the start and extend the duration of the renegotiation of loan covenants.
- BC3 The Board noted that deferring the effective date would delay the implementation of the improvements to the classification of liabilities that the amendments intend to bring about. However, the amendments clarify the requirements for presentation of liabilities instead of fundamentally changing the required accounting; recognition and measurement requirements are unaffected by the amendments. Consequently, the Board concluded that the advantages of a deferral during a time of significant disruption would outweigh the disadvantages. Therefore, to provide entities with operational relief, the Board decided to propose a one-year deferral of the effective date of the amendments to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.
- BC4 The Board considered whether to introduce disclosure requirements as part of the proposed amendment but concluded that this was unnecessary because an entity is required to comply with paragraph 30 of IAS 8. Application of that paragraph requires disclosure of known or reasonably estimable information relevant to assessing the possible impact of the application of the amendments issued in January 2020 on an entity's financial statements.
- BC5 The Board is not proposing any changes to the *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current* amendments issued in January 2020 other than the deferral of the effective date. Earlier application of the amendments will continue to be permitted.



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