

Technical BULLETIN



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July 2016

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This technical bulletin covers the various developments from April to June 2016.

Acknowledgement: The content of the Technical Bulletin has been summarized or reproduced from the CPA Canada, IASB and IFRIC, IAASB, AcSB, PSAB, AASB press releases, updates, publications, meeting summaries and other publications referenced within the bulletin.

A summary of acronyms used in this bulletin is included at the end.

To discuss implementation or interpretation issues with respect to these or any other accounting or assurance matters, please contact your local Collins Barrow service provider.

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Collins Barrow regularly publishes Technical Bulletin for the general interest of its clients and friends to highlight the continually changing accounting and assurance standards, and the interpretations thereof, in Canada. Since this is not intended to be a complete reproduction or summarization of the standard or document reviewed, we recommend that you refer to the original document(s) discussed in this Bulletin and/or discuss the matter with your professional advisor before acting upon any of the matters discussed herein.

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July 2016

1. Accounting

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Pronouncements effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2017

IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows

Amendments will require entities to provide disclosures that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes.

IAS 12 Income Taxes

Amendments clarify how to account for deferred tax assets related to debt instruments measured at fair value.

Pronouncements effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018

IFRS 2 Share-based Payment

Amendments clarify how to account for certain types of share-based payment transactions, providing requirements on the accounting for:

- the effects of vesting and non-vesting conditions on the measurement of cash-settled share-based payments;
- share-based payment transactions with a net settlement feature for withholding tax obligations; and
- a modification to the terms and conditions of a share-based payment that changes the classification of the transaction from cash-settled to equity-settled.

IFRS 9 Financial Instruments

This new standard replaces the requirements in IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement for classification and measurement of financial assets. IFRS 9 is built on a logical, single classification and measurement approach for financial assets that reflects the business model in which they are managed and their cash flow characteristics. IFRS 9

also incorporates requirements for financial liabilities, most of which were carried forward unchanged from IAS 39. Certain changes were made to the fair value option for financial liabilities to address the issue of own credit risk. IFRS 9 removes the volatility in profit or loss that was caused by changes in the credit risk of liabilities elected to be measured at fair value. Requirements related to hedge accounting, representing a new hedge accounting model, have been added to IFRS 9. The new model represents a substantial overhaul of hedge accounting which will allow entities to better reflect their risk management activities in the financial statements. The most significant improvements apply to those that hedge non-financial risk, and so these improvements are expected to be of particular interest to non-financial institutions. In addition, a single, forward-looking expected loss impairment model is introduced, which will require more timely recognition of expected credit losses.

IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

The core principle of the new standard is for companies to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The new standard contains enhanced disclosures about revenue, provides guidance for transactions that were not previously addressed comprehensively (for example, service revenue and contract modifications) and improves guidance for multiple-element arrangements. IFRS 15 supersedes the following standards: IAS 11 Construction Contracts, IAS 18 Revenue, IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes, IFRIC 15 Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate, IFRIC 18 Transfers of Assets from Customers, and SIC-31 Revenue – Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services.

Amendments to IFRS 15 have been issued by the IASB. The amendments do not change the underlying principles of the standard but clarify how those principles should be applied. The amendments clarify how to:

- identify the performance obligations in a contract;

- determine whether a company is a principal or an agent; and
- determine whether the revenue from granting a license should be recognized at a point in time or over time.

In addition, the amendments include two additional reliefs to reduce cost and complexity for a company when it first applies the new standard.

Pronouncement effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 1, 2019

IFRS 16 Leases

This new standard replaces IAS 17 Leases. The biggest change introduced by the new standard is that leases will be brought onto companies' balance sheets, increasing the visibility of their assets and liabilities. IFRS 16 removes the classification of leases as either operating leases or finance leases (for the lessee—the lease customer), treating all leases as finance leases. Short-term leases (less than 12 months) and leases of low-value assets (such as personal computers) are exempt from the requirements.

Pronouncement with effective date to be determined

IFRS 10 Consolidated Financial Statements and IAS 28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures

These standards were amended to eliminate an inconsistency between IFRS 10 and IAS 28 in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. Subsequent to the amendments, a full gain or loss is recognized when a transaction involves a business (whether it is housed in a subsidiary or not), and a partial gain or loss is recognized when a transaction involves assets that do not constitute a business, even if these assets are housed in a subsidiary.

These amendments are available for application; however, the previous mandatory effective date of January 1, 2016 has been removed. The reason for postponing the effective date is that the IASB is planning a broader review that may result in the simplification of accounting for such transactions and of other aspects of accounting for associates and joint ventures.

Recently issued document for comment

Definition of a Business and Accounting for Previously Held Interests (Proposed amendments to IFRS 3 and IFRS 11)

The IASB issued this exposure draft in June 2016. The Post-implementation Review of IFRS 3 carried out by the IASB identified that stakeholders find it difficult to apply the definition of a business in IFRS 3. Defining a business is important. This is because the financial reporting requirements for the acquisition of a business are different from the requirements for the purchase of a group of assets that does not constitute a business. The proposed amendments are intended to provide entities with clearer application guidance to help distinguish between a business and a group of assets when applying IFRS 3.

The IASB was also informed that there is diversity in practice in accounting for previously held interests in the assets and liabilities of a joint operation in two types of transactions: those in which an entity obtains control of a business that is a joint operation and those in which it obtains joint control of a business that is a joint operation. The proposed amendments to IFRS 3 and IFRS 11 are intended to clarify the accounting for each of these types of transactions.

Comment period ends on October 31, 2016.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

<p>Insurance Contracts</p> <p>ED issued by the IASB in June 2013.</p> <p>Final standard is expected to be issued by the IASB in 2016.</p>	<p>Project aimed at improving comparability through a coherent, principles-based framework and one accounting model for all types of insurance contracts and increased transparency.</p>
<p>Measuring Quoted Investments in Subsidiaries, Joint Ventures and Associates at Fair Value (Proposed amendments to IFRS 10, IFRS 12, IAS 27, IAS 28 and IAS 36 and Illustrative Examples for IFRS 13)</p> <p>ED issued by the IASB in September 2014.</p> <p>The work carried out in this project will be fed into the Post-Implementation Review of IFRS 13.</p>	<p>ED clarifies that an entity should measure the fair value of quoted investments and quoted CGUs as the product of the quoted price for the individual financial instruments that make up the investments held by the entity and the quantity of financial instruments. Currently in deliberations.</p>
<p>Reporting the Financial Effects of Rate Regulation</p> <p>Discussion Paper issued by the IASB in September 2014. Currently in discussions.</p>	<p>This DP considers the common features of rate regulation and explores which of them, if any, creates a combination of rights and obligations that is distinguishable from the rights and obligations arising from activities that are not rate-regulated.</p>
<p>Accounting for Dynamic Risk Management: a Portfolio Revaluation Approach to Macro Hedging</p> <p>Discussion Paper issued by the IASB in April 2014. Currently in deliberations.</p>	<p>The DP explores a possible approach (portfolio revaluation approach) to better reflect dynamic risk management activities in entities' financial statements.</p>

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Classification of Liabilities (Proposed amendments to IAS 1)

ED issued by the IASB in February 2015.

Comment period closed on June 10, 2015. Currently in deliberations.

Conceptual Framework

ED published by the IASB in May 2015.

Related ED **Updating References to the Conceptual Framework** was published by the IASB in May 2015.

Comment period for both EDs closed in November 2015. Currently in deliberations.

Remeasurement on a Plan Amendment, Curtailment or Settlement/Availability of a Refund from a Defined Benefit Plan (Proposed amendments to IAS 19 Employee Benefits and IFRIC 14 IAS 19 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements)

ED published by the IASB in June 2015.

Comment period closed in October 2015. Currently in deliberations.

The goal is to improve presentation in financial statements by clarifying the criteria for the classification of a liability as either current or non-current, specifically clarifying that the classification of a liability as either current or non-current is based on the entity's rights at the end of the reporting period and making clear the link between the settlement of the liability and the outflow of resources from the entity.

The proposal aims to provide a more complete, clearer and updated set of concepts that can be used by the IASB when it develops IFRSs and others to help them understand and apply those standards.

The Updating References ED aims to provide transition to the revised Conceptual Framework.

When a defined benefit plan is amended, curtailed or settled during a reporting period, the entity needs to update the assumptions about its obligation and fair value of its plan assets to calculate costs related to these changes. The proposed amendments to IAS 19 specify that the entity is required to use the updated information to determine current service cost and net interest for the period followed by these changes. The proposed amendments to IFRIC 14 address how the powers of other parties, such as the trustees of the plan, affect an entity's right to a refund of a surplus from the plan.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments

Draft IFRIC Interpretation published by the IASB in October 2015 and by the AcSB in November 2015.

Comment period ended on January 19, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration

Draft IFRIC Interpretation published by the IASB in October 2015 and by the AcSB in November 2015.

Comment period ended on January 19, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Applying IFRS 9 Financial Instruments with IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts (Proposed amendments to IFRS 4)

ED issued by the IASB in December 2015 and AcSB in January 2016.

Comment period ended on February 8, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

This draft IFRIC Interpretation gives guidance on how uncertainty over income tax treatments should affect the accounting for income taxes. This draft Interpretation addresses:

- whether an entity should consider uncertain tax treatments collectively;
- the assumptions an entity should make about the examination of tax treatments by taxation authorities;
- how an entity should determine taxable profit (tax loss), tax bases, unused tax losses, unused tax credits and tax rates; and
- how an entity should consider changes in facts and circumstances.

This draft IFRIC Interpretation addresses which exchange rate should be used to report foreign currency transactions when payment is made or received in advance.

This ED proposes amendments designed to address the concerns of some interested parties about the different effective dates of IFRS 9 and the forthcoming new Insurance Contracts standard.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Annual Improvements 2014-2016 Cycle

ED issued by the IASB in November 2015.

Comment period ended on February 17, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

This ED proposes the following amendments:

- IFRS 1 – deletion of short-term exemptions for first-time adopters, as they have now served their intended purpose.
- IFRS 12 – clarification of the scope of the disclosure requirements.
- IAS 28 – measuring investees at fair value through profit or loss on an investment-by-investment basis. When an investment in an associate or a joint venture is held by an entity that is a venture capital organization, or other qualifying entity, it may elect to measure that investment at fair value through profit or loss. The proposed amendment will clarify that the election is available for each investment in an associate or joint venture on an investment-by-investment basis, upon initial recognition.

Application of Materiality to Financial Statements - Draft IFRS Practice Statement

Draft guidance issued by the IASB in October 2015.

Comment period ended on February 26, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

This draft guidance has been developed in response to concerns that management is often uncertain about how to apply the concept of materiality and therefore uses the disclosure requirements in the Standards as a checklist. This can result in excessive disclosure of immaterial information that can obscure useful information and also make financial statements cluttered and less understandable. It can also lead to useful information being left out.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Whether information is material or not depends on a range of factors and entity-specific circumstances, and is a matter of judgement. Determining what information is material also requires an understanding of the users of the financial statements and the decisions that they make based on those financial statements.

The objective of this publication is to assist management in applying the concept of materiality to general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS.

Transfers of Investment Property (Proposed amendment to IAS 40)

Proposed amendment issued by the IASB in November 2015 and by the AcSB in December 2015.

Comment period ended on March 18, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Proposed amendment clarifies the guidance on transfers to, or from, investment properties. Proposed amendment states that a transfer of property to, or from, investment property can only be done where there is a change in use supported by evidence. In addition, the list of examples of evidence that a change in use has occurred is re-characterized as non-exhaustive.

Questions?

Here are some resources that will assist in the application of the standards.

CPA Canada Reporting Alerts for IFRS

CPA Canada issues Reporting Alerts aimed at assisting companies in determining the impact of new and revised standards on their business. Reporting Alerts provide a summary of the standard, highlight significant items, summarize key changes and address common questions. The following alert has recently been issued: [IFRS 16 Leases – March 2016](#)

Viewpoints

This series discusses views of the Oil and Gas Task Force and the Mining Task Force on IFRS application issues relevant to junior oil and gas companies and junior mining companies, respectively. Recent issues: [Calculating depletion – Units of production method](#) (Oil & Gas, April 2016), [Reporting Funds Flow](#) (Oil & Gas, April 2016)

IFRS Discussion Group Meeting Topics

Established by the AcSB, the IFRS Discussion Group implements

and maintains a regular public forum to discuss issues that arise in Canada when applying IFRS. The Financial Reporting & Assurance Standards Canada website allows for topics and issues discussed by the IFRS Discussion Group to be searched and sorted. Find out whether the group has discussed an issue that you face in applying IFRSs and get the [meeting report extract and audio webcast](#) for each issue you find.

Accounting Standards for Private Enterprises (ASPE)

Recently issued document for comment

Clarifications to Sections 1591 and 3056

This Exposure Draft, issued by the AcSB in May 2016, includes proposed narrow-scope amendments, which are intended to clarify guidance or wording and to correct for unintended consequences, conflicts or oversights, similar to the process for annual improvements. The proposed amendments to Section 1591 clarify:

- that the transition provisions may not be applied when an enterprise changes its accounting policy choice to consolidate its subsidiaries at any time after initial application of Section 1591;
- that an enterprise is not required to assess whether contractual arrangements give rise to control when subsidiaries are not consolidated; and
- that the voting interest, if any, that an investor holds in a subsidiary is accounted for using paragraph 1591.24(b)(i) when subsidiaries are not consolidated.

The proposed amendment to Section 3056 clarifies that the transition provisions may not be applied when an enterprise changes its accounting policy choice at any time after initial application.

Comment period ends on August 2, 2016.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Redeemable Preferred Shares Issued in a Tax Planning Arrangement

Amendment to Section 3856 Financial Instruments; ED issued by the AcSB in October 2014. Currently in deliberations.

In the ED, the proposed effective date was fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2016. However, due to the time needed to consider issues and comments raised during the comment period, the AcSB has decided that the effective date of any such change will be no earlier than January 1, 2018.

Amendment to remove the current exemption of classifying redeemable preferred shares issued in a tax planning arrangement as equity resulting in such shares being presented as liabilities, which would be more consistent with other financial liabilities.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Subsidiaries and Investments

Amendments to Section 1591, Subsidiaries and Section 3051, Investments.

ED issued by the AcSB in September 2015.

Comment period closed on January 6, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Amendments expected to be issued in Q4 of 2016. Amendments will be effective for fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, with earlier application permitted.

Amendments will clarify the accounting for a subsidiary and an investment subject to significant influence when the cost method is used.

As an underlying principle, an interest in a subsidiary should initially be measured on a basis similar to other business combinations. The proposals include the following:

- cost would be measured at the acquisition-date fair value of the consideration transferred;
- a bargain purchase gain on the purchase of a subsidiary would not be recognized;
- a previously held investment would not be remeasured in a step acquisition; and
- acquisition costs incurred would be recognized as an expense.

The proposals also include guidance on the subsequent measurement of an interest in a subsidiary.

Agriculture

This Discussion Paper was published by the AcSB in December 2015.

Comment period ended on May 19, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

As a result of a lack of specific authoritative guidance, there is diversity in accounting by private enterprises for biological assets (i.e., living animals or plants) and agricultural produce (i.e., the harvested product of the enterprise's biological assets). This Discussion Paper aims to obtain broad input from stakeholders, in particular, those involved in the agricultural sector. This input will assist the AcSB in deciding whether to develop authoritative guidance, either by developing a new standard or amending existing standards, on accounting for biological assets and agricultural produce by private enterprises and, if so, the issues to be addressed and how they could be addressed.

Questions?

Here are some resources that will assist in the application of the standards.

CPA Canada Publications for ASPE

The following publications have recently been issued:

Financial Reporting Alert: [2015 Annual Improvements to ASPE](#) (March 2016)

ASPE Briefing: [A New Light on Accounting for Investment](#) – Section 1591 Subsidiaries, Section 3051 Investments and Section 3056 Interests in Joint Arrangements (May 2016)

Private Enterprise Advisory Committee

Established by the AcSB in 2010, the committee assists the AcSB in maintaining and improving accounting standards for private enterprises and advises on the need for non-authoritative guidance about the standards. At the request of the AcSB, the committee may also undertake research into the financial reporting needs of private enterprises.

Click [here](#) to access recent meeting notes.

Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations (ASNPO)

Questions?

Here are some resources that will assist in the application of the standards.

Not-for-Profit Advisory Committee

Established by the AcSB in 2015, the committee's purpose is to advise the AcSB on maintaining and improving ASNPO and in identifying the need for non-authoritative guidance about the standards. The committee makes recommendations to the AcSB but is not authorized to interpret or provide authoritative guidance. Click [here](#) to access recent meeting notes.

Public Sector Accounting (PSA)

Pronouncements effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2017

Related Party Disclosures, Section PS 2200

This new section defines a related party and establishes disclosures required for related party transactions. Disclosure of information about related party transactions and the relationship underlying them is required when they have occurred at a value different from that which would have been arrived at if the parties were unrelated, and they have, or could have, a material financial effect on the financial statements.

Inter-entity Transactions, Section PS 3420

This new section establishes standards on how to account for and report transactions between public sector entities that comprise a government's reporting entity from both a provider and recipient perspective.

Assets, Section PS 3210

This new section provides guidance for applying the definition of assets set out in Section PS 1000, and establishes general disclosure standards for assets. Disclosure of information about the major categories of assets that are not recognized is required. When an asset is not recognized because a reasonable estimate of the amount involved cannot be made, the reason(s) for this should be disclosed.

Contingent Assets, Section PS 3320

This new section defines and establishes disclosure standards on contingent assets. Disclosure of information about contingent assets is required when the occurrence of the confirming future event is likely.

Contractual Rights, Section PS 3380

This new section defines and establishes disclosure standards on contractual rights. Disclosure of information about contractual rights is required, including description of their nature and extent and the timing.

Pronouncement effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2018

Restructuring Transactions, Section PS 3430

This new section defines a restructuring transaction and establishes standards for recognizing and measuring assets and liabilities transferred in a restructuring transaction. The main features of the new section are:

- A restructuring transaction is a transfer of an integrated set of assets and/or liabilities, together with related program or operating responsibilities without consideration based primarily on the fair value of the individual assets and individual liabilities transferred.
- The net effect of a restructuring transaction should be recognized as revenue or as an expense by entities involved.
- A recipient should recognize individual assets and liabilities received in a restructuring transaction at their carrying amount with applicable adjustments at the restructuring date.
- A transferor and a recipient should not restate their financial position or results of operations.
- A transferor and a recipient should disclose sufficient information to enable users to assess the nature and financial effects of a restructuring transaction on their financial position and operations.

Pronouncements effective for fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2019 (except for government organizations that applied CICA Handbook – Accounting prior to adoption of the CICA Public Sector Accounting Handbook, for which these pronouncements apply to fiscal years beginning on or after April 1, 2012)

Financial Statement Presentation, Section PS 1201

This section revises and replaces Financial Statement Presentation, Section PS 1200. The new standard introduces a new statement for reporting of remeasurement gains and losses.

Foreign Currency Translation, Section PS 2601

This section revises and replaces Foreign Currency Translations, Section PS 2600. Definition of currency risk is aligned with the new Financial Instruments Section, PS 3450. The new standard also removes certain previously available exceptions to measurement of items on initial recognition. The deferral and amortization of foreign exchange gains and losses relating to long-term foreign currency denominated monetary items, hedge accounting and presentation of items as synthetic instruments are removed. In addition, the new statement of remeasurement gains and losses introduced in Section PS 1201 is used to reflect exchange gains and losses until the period of settlement, rather than reflecting them in the statement of operations.

Portfolio Investments, Section PS 3041

This section replaces Section PS 3040, Portfolio Investments. In addition, Section PS 3030 is withdrawn as the distinction between temporary and portfolio investments is removed with the issue of Section PS 3041. The scope in the new standard is expanded to include interests in pooled investment funds, and requirement for application of cost method is removed. The new standard is also aligned with the new Financial Instrument Section, PS 3450.

Financial Instruments, Section PS 3450

This new section establishes standards for recognizing and measuring financial assets, financial liabilities and non-financial derivatives. The standard introduces two measurement categories: fair value and cost or amortized cost. The statement of remeasurement gains and losses will reflect gains and losses arising on fair value remeasurement until an item is derecognized. The standard also introduces new disclosure requirements of items reported and the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments.

Recent publication

Post-Implementation Review: Section PS 3410, Government Transfers

The Feedback Statement issued by PSAB in April 2016 confirmed that the primary areas of concern are recipient accounting for capital transfers and the role of the “authority to pay” relating to authorization in one jurisdiction. PSAB will explore whether an authoritative accounting guideline would help clarify interpretations of Section PS 3410.

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Retirement Obligations	Subject to comments received, the PSAB proposes to expose a proposed new section on retirement obligations associated with tangible capital assets controlled by a public sector entity.
Statement of Principles	
Issued by PSAB in August 2014. Currently in deliberations.	
Exposure draft expected in the second half of 2016.	

Current status of documents previously issued for comment

Revenue	PSAB proposes, subject to comments received, to expose a new section on revenue. The Statement of Principles proposes definitions and principles applying to a broad range of revenues public sector entities report on. The proposals apply to exchange transactions involving a sale of goods or services and also cover other forms of revenue that do not involve an exchange, such as fines and penalties.
Statement of Principles	
Issued by the PSAB in August 2013. Currently in deliberations.	
ED to be issued in Q1 of 2017.	
Financial Instruments: Transition	Proposes to clarify aspects of the section’s scope of application, specifically, the receivables and payables that the section does not apply to, and add transitional provisions and new guidance relating to certain specialized forms of agreements.
ED issued by the PSAB in October 2014.	
Comment period closed on January 15, 2015. Currently in deliberations.	
Conceptual Framework Fundamentals and the Reporting Model	Proposes a new reporting model and draft principles on public sector characteristics, financial statement objectives, qualitative characteristics, elements, recognition, measurement and presentation.
Consultation Paper 3, issued by the PSAB in March 2015.	
Comment period ended on August 31, 2015. Statement of Principles is expected to be issued in Q3 of 2016.	
Withdrawal of Disclosure of Related Party Transactions by Not-for-Profit Organizations, Section PS 4260	This ED proposes to withdraw section PS 4260 given the completion of PSAB’s Related Party Transactions project, and amend the transitional provisions in section PS 2200 Related Party Disclosures. Sections PS 2200 and PS 4260 are very similar and while some minor terminology differences exist, the basic intent of each section is the same.
ED issued by PSAB in January 2016.	
Comment period ended on April 29, 2016.	

PSA Discussion Group Meeting Topics

Established by the PSAB, the PSA Discussion Group provides a public forum for discussion of issues arising on the application of the PSA Handbook. Summaries of topics and discussions from [past meetings](#) are available on the Financial Reporting & Assurance Standards Canada website.

July 2016

2. Assurance

New pronouncements

CSRS 4460 - Reports on Supplementary Matters Arising from an Audit or a Review Engagement

Effective for reports dated on or after April 1, 2016

CPA Canada Resources:
[Implementation tool \(April 2015\)](#)
[Audit and assurance alert \(October 2014\)](#)
[Client briefing \(February 2015\)](#)

Addresses matters beyond the scope of the audit or review of financial statements that come to the attention of the practitioner when performing the audit or review.
 Includes requirements related to acceptance of engagement, performing the engagement and reporting.

Section 7170, Auditor's Consent to the Use of the Auditor's Report Included in a Business Acquisition Report

Effective for an auditor's consent to the use of the auditor's report in a business acquisition report issued on or after June 1, 2016.

Refer to the [Re-exposure draft on CSOA 5000](#) for discussion on proposed deferral of effective date by one year to June 1, 2017.

Replaces section 7500. Section 7170 sets out new requirements relating to the auditor's responsibilities in responding to requests to consent to the use of the auditor's report on the audited financial statements of the acquired business that are to be included in a business acquisition report issued by the acquirer. In addition, the standard sets out requirements for the format and content of the auditor's consent.

New pronouncements

Joint Policy Statement Concerning Communications with Law Firms Regarding Claims and Possible Claims in Connection with the Preparation and Audit of Financial Statements ("Statement")

Effective for inquiry letters dated on or after December 1, 2016

CPA Canada Resources:
 Audit and assurance alert – [Significant Revisions to the Joint Policy Statement](#) (April 2016)

The new Statement replaces the existing Statement and the Related Services Guideline, AuG-46, Communication with Law Firms under New Accounting and Auditing Standards. The new Joint Policy Statement:

- includes an expanded scope that also applies to communications regarding claims and possible claims involving the entity's in-house legal counsel who is representing or advising the entity with respect to claims and possible claims;
- excludes guidance relating to a specific financial reporting framework;
- clarifies the communication protocols and timelines for issuance of the inquiry and response letters;
- includes new guidance with respect to the auditor's role to review the inquiry letter prior to sending it to the law firm;
- includes new guidance on updated response letters; and
- includes new guidance relating to format and content of the inquiry and response letter.

New pronouncements

CSAE 3000, Attestation Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and CSAE 3001, Direct Engagements

Effective for attestation and direct engagements where the assurance report is dated on or after June 30, 2017

Replaces Sections 5025, 5030, 5049 and 5050. CSAE 3000 is adopted from ISAE 3000, Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. CSAE 3000 contains Canadian amendments to address differences between ISAE 3000 and the applicable Canadian assurance standards. These differences include narrowing the scope of CSAE 3000 to address attestation engagements only, references to relevant ethical requirements and terminology. CSAE 3001 sets out requirements related to planning, performing and reporting on direct engagements. Differences in wording between CSAE 3000 and CSAE 3001 relate only to differences between the performance of an attestation engagement and the performance of a direct engagement.

CSRE 2400, Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements

Effective for reviews of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 14, 2017, with earlier application not permitted.

CPA Canada Resources: Audit and assurance alert – [Comparison between CSRE 2400 and the 8000 Series](#) (June 2016)

This new Standard sets out requirements related to:

- engagement level quality control;
- accepting the engagement;
- communicating with management and those charged with governance;
- performing the engagement;
- forming a conclusion in the financial statements;
- reporting; and
- documentation.

CSRE 2400 replaces Section 8100 General Review Standards, Section 8200 Public Accountant's Review of Financial Statements, Section 8500 Reviews of Financial Information Other Than Financial Statements, AuG-20 Performance of a Review of Financial Statements in Accordance with Sections 8100 and 8200 and AuG-47 Dating the Review Engagement Report on Financial Statements.

Recently issued document for comment

Proposed changes to Rule of Professional Conduct 216 Payment or Receipt of Commissions

The receipt or payment of different forms of compensation for various services create a conflict with the fundamental principle of objectivity. However, the current Rule 216, which prevents members who are providing accounting services to the public from accepting commission payments, may prevent members from serving the needs of their clients in a cost-effective manner. The existing Rule prohibits members and firms who are engaged in the practice of public accounting or providing accounting services to the public (both referred to as "public accounting" for the purpose of this Rule) from either paying or receiving commissions or other types of compensation either directly or indirectly.

The proposed Rule would adopt a threats and safeguards framework that applies to all members and firms providing professional services as defined in the CPA Code. The proposed Rule would retain a specific prohibition in respect of a member and/or firm paying or receiving commissions or referral fees for the provision of assurance services, and in respect of the provision of other professional services to a client for whom the member or firm also provides assurance services. In these cases, the associated risks are such that it is unlikely that sufficient safeguards could be applied to reduce the threats to an acceptable level. However, in all other situations where members or firms provide professional services, a threats and safeguards approach would be taken, with a minimum requirement for client consent, unless the threat is clearly insignificant.

Current status of documents previously issued for Comment

New and Revised Auditor Reporting Standards and Related Conforming Amendments

The IAASB issued new and revised standards in January 2015.

Auditor Reporting Implementation Working Group issued the following guidance in June 2016:

[Determining and Communicating Key Audit Matters](#)

IAASB issued new ISA 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report, and revised ISA 700, 705, 706, 570 and 260, along with some conforming amendments to other ISAs. New section to communicate key audit matters and disclosure of the name of the engagement partner are mandatory for audits of listed entities. Enhanced reporting on going concern, affirmative statement about the auditor's independence,

Current status of documents previously issued for Comment

The AASB intends to adopt the standards with limited amendments.

The AASB issued an invitation to comment in June 2015 to obtain input on implementation challenges in Canada. Comment period ended on February 5, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

The AASB has tentatively decided to set effective dates as follows:

- CASs other than CAS 701 – for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after December 15, 2017,
- CAS 701 – for audits of financial statements of TSX-listed entities for periods ending on or after December 15, 2017 and for audits of financial statements of other entities for periods ending on or after December 15, 2018.

Addressing Disclosures in the Audit of Financial Statements

The IAASB issued revisions in July 2015.

The AASB has not yet issued the final amendments in the Handbook, which are expected in Q3 of 2016. These revisions are expected to be effective for periods ending on or after December 15, 2017.

enhanced description of the responsibilities of the auditor and key feature of an audit and change in order of the opinion and basis for opinion sections are mandatory for all audits.

The AASB's invitation to comment notes that the AASB concluded that auditors of entities listed on the four recognized stock exchanges in Canada should apply the requirements of the new auditor reporting standards for listed entities. The definition of listed entity will not be amended by the AASB.

The revisions clarify expectations of auditors when auditing financial statement disclosures. The changes clarify the concept of disclosures as an integral part of the financial statements and emphasize the need for auditor consideration of disclosures earlier in the audit process. Strengthened requirements and new guidance focuses on requiring the auditor to understand relevant aspects of the information system relating to information disclosed in the financial statements, identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatements in quantitative and qualitative disclosures, obtaining sufficient

Current status of documents previously issued for Comment

Auditing and Assurance Bulletin prepared by Auditing and Assurance staff of the AASB - [Addressing Disclosures in the Audit of Financial Statements](#)

The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information

Revised ISA 720 issued by the IAASB in April 2015.

The AASB issued an exposure draft in November 2015 relating to adoption issues in Canada, designed to clarify the scope of application of CAS 720. Comment period ended on February 12, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Effective date is expected to be aligned with the effective date of the CASs impacted by the new and revised auditor reporting standards.

Use of the Practitioner's Communication or Name – Canadian Standard on Association (CSOA)

ED was issued by the AASB in March 2015. Re-exposure draft issued in March 2016.

Comment period closed on May 16, 2016. Currently in deliberations.

Proposed CSOA 5000 would be effective as of, and would be applicable to a practitioner's consent provided on or after, June 1, 2017.

appropriate audit evidence relating to disclosures, and evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements, including their relevance and understandability.

Specifies responsibilities of auditors relating to the range of other information in documents containing audited financial information.

The scope of other information is broadened and clarified and is linked to the concept of an "annual report". Improves transparency by requiring auditors to articulate in their reports their responsibilities under the revised ISA 720 and the outcome of their work.

The fundamental principles underlying proposed CSOA 5000 are consistent with those underlying Section 5020 which is being replaced, however, certain aspects may differ significantly from some practitioners' interpretations of Section 5020, including: scope; use of the practitioner's name or communication in connection with accompanying information; use of the practitioner's communication in another language; becoming aware of information to which the practitioner had attached a communication that has been subsequently issued without the practitioner's communication; and issuing consent if the practitioner has expressed an adverse conclusion or disclaimed a conclusion.

Current status of documents previously issued for Comment

Proposed Revisions to Independence Standards

Issued by the Independence Task Force (ITF) of CPA Canada's Public Trust Committee.

Comment period closed on May 15, 2015.

Revisions are expected to be applicable for assurance engagements commencing after December 15, 2016.

Responding to Non-Compliance or Suspected Non-Compliance with Laws or Regulations

The IAASB issued this ED in July 2015. The AASB's ED was issued in August 2015, with no Canadian amendments proposed.

Comment period closed on September 30, 2015 for the AASB's ED and on October 21, 2015 for the IAASB's ED. Currently in deliberations.

Changes for Reporting on Special Purpose Financial Statements

The IAASB issued final amendments in March 2016. The AASB has not issued the final amendments yet.

Revisions address recent amendments issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) in relation to breaches of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (Code) and approach related to the impact that contingent fees charged to an assurance client have on independence.

The ED proposes limited amendments to various standards resulting from the proposed changes to the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) Code of Ethics addressing non-compliance with laws or regulations. The IAASB's proposals are intended to allow for flexibility when ethical requirements other than the IESBA Code are applied. For instance, in Canada, the rules of professional conduct/code of ethics issued by various professional accounting bodies are followed, rather than the IESBA's Code of Ethics; however, Canadian rules are at least as stringent as the IESBA Code.

Amendments to CAS 800 and CAS 805 provide guidance on how the enhancements to the auditor's report issued by the IAASB in January 2015 would apply in audits of special purpose financial statements.

Current status of documents previously issued for Comment

Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements

The IAASB issued final amendments in March 2016. The AASB has not issued the final amendments yet.

Reports on Compliance with Agreements, Statutes and Regulations

The AASB issued this ED in September 2015.

Comment period closed on December 23, 2015. Currently in deliberations.

Enhancing Audit Quality in the Public Interest: A Focus on Professional Skepticism, Quality Control and Group Audits

Invitation to Comment (ITC) issued by the IAASB in December 2015 (AASB in February 2016).

IAASB's ITC and the Overview can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Comment period closed on April 15, 2016 for the AASB ITC and ends on May 1, 2016 for the IAASB ITC.

Amendments to ISA 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements explain how the enhancements resulting from the new and revised Auditor Reporting standards apply to engagements to report on summary financial statements.

The new standard, CSAE 3530, Reports on Compliance with Agreements, Statutes and Regulations, will replace Sections 5800, 5815 and 8600. Objective of the proposal is to update the standards and to rewrite them in a clarity format. The proposed standard will cover both audit and review engagements.

This ITC highlights the IAASB's discussions on the topics of professional skepticism, quality control and group audits, and flags potential standard-setting activities the IAASB could take to enhance audit quality. A companion document, an Overview of the ITC, has also been released, designed to solicit feedback from investors, audit committees and preparers. It summarizes the key areas the IAASB is exploring and the direction it may take, and may be useful in facilitating outreach by stakeholders to develop their responses.

ACRONYMS USED

AASB – Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
AcSB – Accounting Standards Board
ED – Exposure Draft
GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Standards
IAASB – International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
IASB – International Accounting Standards Board
IFRIC – International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee
CMA – Certified Management Accountants
CPA – Chartered Professional Accountants
CPAB – Canadian Public Accountability Board
CSA – Canadian Securities Administrators
PSAB – Public Sector Accounting Board