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IFRS® Foundation

# Compilation of Agenda Decisions—Volume 4

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October 2020–March 2021



**Compilation of Agenda Decisions  
published by the  
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(‘The Committee’)**

Volume 4  
(October 2020 – March 2021)



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## Introduction

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*Compilation of Agenda Decisions—Volume 4* compiles all agenda decisions published by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (Committee) in the period October 2020 to March 2021. The Committee publishes an agenda decision to explain why a standard-setting project has not been added to the work plan to address a question submitted. For ease of reference, the agenda decisions are sorted by IFRS Standard.

## How the Committee supports consistent application of IFRS Standards

The Committee works with the International Accounting Standards Board (Board) in supporting the consistent application of IFRS® Standards.

### The Committee's process

Committee projects typically begin as an application question submitted for consideration. The process is designed to:

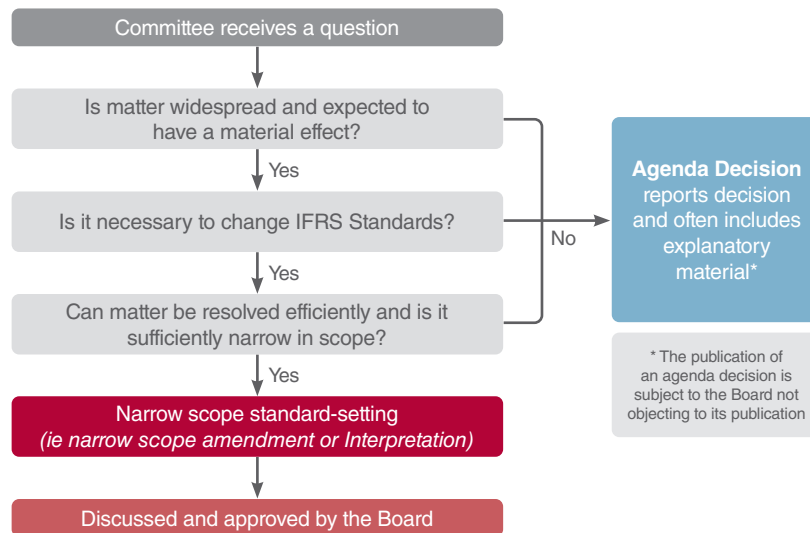
- allow any stakeholder to submit a question for consideration; and
- be transparent—all eligible application questions are considered at a public meeting.

The Committee then decides whether a standard-setting project should be added to the work plan to address the question submitted. The Committee may decide not to do so if it concludes that standard-setting would be:

- unnecessary—typically because, in the Committee's view, IFRS Standards provide an adequate basis for an entity to determine the required accounting or because there is no evidence that a widespread financial reporting problem exists; or
- not sufficiently narrow in scope—the question could be resolved only as part of a larger Board project (not a narrow-scope project).

To explain why a standard-setting project is not added, the Committee publishes an agenda decision. Agenda decisions report the Committee's decision and, in many cases, also include explanatory material.

The following diagram summarises the criteria the Committee considers when deciding whether a standard-setting project should be added to the work plan:



## Explanatory material in an agenda decision

Agenda decisions often include explanatory material. The objective of including such explanatory material is to improve the consistency of application of IFRS Standards.

Agenda decisions (including any explanatory material contained within them) cannot add or change requirements in IFRS Standards. Instead, explanatory material explains how the applicable principles and requirements in IFRS Standards apply to the transaction or fact pattern described in the agenda decision.

Explanatory material derives its authority from the Standards themselves. Accordingly, an entity is required to apply the applicable IFRS Standard(s), reflecting the explanatory material in an agenda decision (subject to it having sufficient time to implement that accounting).

Explanatory material included as part of a tentative agenda decision is subject to comment. The comment period is normally 60 days. After considering comments received, the Committee decides whether to confirm its decision and publish an agenda decision (subject to the Board not objecting). An agenda decision is published if no more than three Board members object to its publication. Please visit the project pages on our website if you would like more information about the agenda decisions included in this compilation.

Agenda decisions published by the Committee are available on the 'how we help support consistent application' page.

### **Narrow-scope standard-setting**

Some questions result in narrow-scope standard-setting that follows the applicable due process. The Committee may decide to:

- develop an IFRIC Interpretation, which adds requirements to IFRS Standards but does not remove or replace any requirements in the Standards; or
- recommend that the Board develop a narrow-scope amendment to a Standard.

Narrow-scope standard-setting projects recommended by the Committee and approved by the Board are added to the work plan as maintenance projects.

**IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*, IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows***

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**Supply Chain Financing Arrangements—Reverse Factoring**

*December 2020*

The Committee received a request about reverse factoring arrangements. Specifically, the request asked:

- a. how an entity presents liabilities to pay for goods or services received when the related invoices are part of a reverse factoring arrangement; and
- b. what information about reverse factoring arrangements an entity is required to disclose in its financial statements.

In a reverse factoring arrangement, a financial institution agrees to pay amounts an entity owes to the entity's suppliers and the entity agrees to pay the financial institution at the same date as, or a date later than, suppliers are paid.

**Presentation in the statement of financial position**

IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* specifies how an entity is required to present its liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Paragraph 54 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present 'trade and other payables' separately from other financial liabilities. 'Trade and other payables' are sufficiently different in nature or function from other financial liabilities to warrant separate presentation (paragraph 57 of IAS 1). Paragraph 55 of IAS 1 requires an entity to present additional line items (including by disaggregating the line items listed in paragraph 54) when such presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity's financial position. Consequently, an entity is required to determine whether to present liabilities that are part of a reverse factoring arrangement:

- a. within trade and other payables;
- b. within other financial liabilities; or
- c. as a line item separate from other items in its statement of financial position.

Paragraph 11(a) of IAS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* states that 'trade payables are liabilities to pay for goods or services that have been received or supplied and have been invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier'. Paragraph 70 of IAS 1 explains that 'some current liabilities, such as trade payables... are part of the working capital used in the entity's normal operating cycle'. The Committee therefore concluded that an entity presents a financial liability as a trade payable only when it:

- a. represents a liability to pay for goods or services;
- b. is invoiced or formally agreed with the supplier; and
- c. is part of the working capital used in the entity's normal operating cycle.



Paragraph 29 of IAS 1 requires an entity to ‘present separately items of a dissimilar nature or function unless they are immaterial’. Paragraph 57 specifies that line items are included in the statement of financial position when the size, nature or function of an item (or aggregation of similar items) is such that separate presentation is relevant to an understanding of the entity’s financial position. Accordingly, the Committee concluded that, applying IAS 1, an entity presents liabilities that are part of a reverse factoring arrangement:

- a. as part of ‘trade and other payables’ only when those liabilities have a similar nature and function to trade payables—for example, when those liabilities are part of the working capital used in the entity’s normal operating cycle.
- b. separately when the size, nature or function of those liabilities makes separate presentation relevant to an understanding of the entity’s financial position. In assessing whether it is required to present such liabilities separately (including whether to disaggregate trade and other payables), an entity considers the amounts, nature and timing of those liabilities (paragraphs 55 and 58 of IAS 1).

The Committee observed that an entity assessing whether to present liabilities that are part of a reverse factoring arrangement separately might consider factors including, for example:

- a. whether additional security is provided as part of the arrangement that would not be provided without the arrangement.
- b. the extent to which the terms of liabilities that are part of the arrangement differ from the terms of the entity’s trade payables that are not part of the arrangement.

#### **Derecognition of a financial liability**

An entity assesses whether and when to derecognise a liability that is (or becomes) part of a reverse factoring arrangement applying the derecognition requirements in IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*.

An entity that derecognises a trade payable to a supplier and recognises a new financial liability to a financial institution applies IAS 1 in determining how to present that new liability in its statement of financial position (see ‘Presentation in the statement of financial position’).

#### **Presentation in the statement of cash flows**

Paragraph 6 of IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows* defines:

- a. operating activities as ‘the principal revenue-producing activities of the entity and other activities that are not investing or financing activities’; and
- b. financing activities as ‘activities that result in changes in the size and composition of the contributed equity and borrowings of the entity’.

An entity that has entered into a reverse factoring arrangement determines how to classify cash flows under the arrangement, typically as cash flows from operating activities or cash flows from financing activities. The Committee observed that an entity’s assessment of the nature of the liabilities that are part of the arrangement may help in

determining whether the related cash flows arise from operating or financing activities. For example, if the entity considers the related liability to be a trade or other payable that is part of the working capital used in the entity's principal revenue-producing activities, the entity presents cash outflows to settle the liability as arising from operating activities in its statement of cash flows. In contrast, if the entity considers that the related liability is not a trade or other payable because the liability represents borrowings of the entity, the entity presents cash outflows to settle the liability as arising from financing activities in its statement of cash flows.

Investing and financing transactions that do not require the use of cash or cash equivalents are excluded from an entity's statement of cash flows (paragraph 43 of IAS 7). Consequently, if a cash inflow and cash outflow occur for an entity when an invoice is factored as part of a reverse factoring arrangement, the entity presents those cash flows in its statement of cash flows. If no cash inflow or cash outflow occurs for an entity in a financing transaction, the entity discloses the transaction elsewhere in the financial statements in a way that provides all the relevant information about the financing activity (paragraph 43 of IAS 7).

#### **Notes to the financial statements**

Paragraph 31 of IFRS 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* requires an entity to provide information that enables users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and extent of risks arising from financial instruments to which the entity is exposed. IFRS 7 defines liquidity risk as 'the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset'. The Committee observed that reverse factoring arrangements often give rise to liquidity risk because:

- a. the entity has concentrated a portion of its liabilities with one financial institution rather than a diverse group of suppliers. The entity may also obtain other sources of funding from the financial institution providing the reverse factoring arrangement. If the entity were to encounter any difficulty in meeting its obligations, such a concentration would increase the risk that the entity might have to pay a significant amount, at one time, to one counterparty.
- b. the entity may have become reliant on extended payment terms or the entity's supplier may have become accustomed to, or reliant on, earlier payment under the reverse factoring arrangement. If the financial institution were to withdraw the reverse factoring arrangement, that withdrawal could affect the entity's ability to settle liabilities when they are due, particularly if the entity were already in financial distress.

Paragraphs 33–35 of IFRS 7 require an entity to disclose how exposures to risk arising from financial instruments, including liquidity risk, arise; the entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing the risk; summary quantitative data about the entity's exposure to liquidity risk at the end of the reporting period (including further information if this data is unrepresentative of the entity's exposure to liquidity risk during the period); and concentrations of risk. Paragraphs 39 and B11F of IFRS 7 specify further requirements and factors an entity might consider in providing liquidity risk disclosures.

An entity applies judgement in determining whether to provide additional disclosures in the notes about the effect of reverse factoring arrangements on its financial position, financial performance and cash flows. The Committee observed that:

- a. assessing how to present liabilities and cash flows related to reverse factoring arrangements may involve judgement. An entity discloses the judgements that management has made in this respect if they are among the judgements made that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements (paragraph 122 of IAS 1).
- b. reverse factoring arrangements may have a material effect on an entity's financial statements. An entity provides information about reverse factoring arrangements in its financial statements to the extent that such information is relevant to an understanding of any of those financial statements (paragraph 112 of IAS 1).

The Committee noted that making materiality judgements involves both quantitative and qualitative considerations.

Paragraph 44A of IAS 7 requires an entity 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'. The Committee noted that such disclosure is required for liabilities that are part of a reverse factoring arrangement if the cash flows for those liabilities were, or future cash flows will be, classified as cash flows from financing activities.

The Committee concluded that the principles and requirements in IFRS Standards provide an adequate basis for an entity to determine the presentation of liabilities that are part of reverse factoring arrangements, the presentation of the related cash flows, and the information to disclose in the notes about, for example, liquidity risks that arise in such arrangements. Consequently, the Committee decided not to add a standard-setting project on these matters to the work plan.

## IAS 38 *Intangible Assets*

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### **Configuration or Customisation Costs in a Cloud Computing Arrangement (IAS 38)**

*April 2021*

The Committee received a request about how a customer accounts for costs of configuring or customising a supplier's application software in a Software as a Service (SaaS) arrangement. In the fact pattern described in the request:

- a. a customer enters into a SaaS arrangement with a supplier. The contract conveys to the customer the right to receive access to the supplier's application software over the contract term. That right to receive access does not provide the customer with a software asset and, therefore, the access to the software is a service that the customer receives over the contract term.
- b. the customer incurs costs of configuring or customising the supplier's application software to which the customer receives access. The request describes configuration and customisation as follows:
  - i. configuration involves the setting of various 'flags' or 'switches' within the application software, or defining values or parameters, to set up the software's existing code to function in a specified way.
  - ii. customisation involves modifying the software code in the application or writing additional code. Customisation generally changes, or creates additional, functionalities within the software.
- c. the customer receives no other goods or services.

In analysing the request, the Committee considered:

- a. whether, applying IAS 38, the customer recognises an intangible asset in relation to configuration or customisation of the application software (Question I).
- b. if an intangible asset is not recognised, how the customer accounts for the configuration or customisation costs (Question II).

#### **Does the customer recognise an intangible asset in relation to configuration or customisation of the application software (Question I)?**

Applying paragraph 18 of IAS 38, an entity recognises an item as an intangible asset when the entity demonstrates that the item meets both the definition of an intangible asset and the recognition criteria in paragraphs 21–23 of IAS 38. IAS 38 defines an intangible asset as 'an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance'. IAS 38 notes that an asset is a resource controlled by an entity and paragraph 13 specifies that an entity controls an asset if it has 'the power to obtain the future economic benefits flowing from the underlying resource and to restrict the access of others to those benefits'.

In the fact pattern described in the request, the supplier controls the application software to which the customer has access. The assessment of whether configuration or customisation of that software results in an intangible asset for the customer depends on the nature and output of the configuration or customisation performed. The Committee

observed that, in the SaaS arrangement described in the request, the customer often would not recognise an intangible asset because it does not control the software being configured or customised and those configuration or customisation activities do not create a resource controlled by the customer that is separate from the software. In some circumstances, however, the arrangement may result in, for example, additional code from which the customer has the power to obtain the future economic benefits and to restrict others' access to those benefits. In that case, in determining whether to recognise the additional code as an intangible asset, the customer assesses whether the additional code is identifiable and meets the recognition criteria in IAS 38.

**If an intangible asset is not recognised, how does the customer account for the configuration or customisation costs (Question II)?**

If the customer does not recognise an intangible asset in relation to configuration or customisation of the application software, it applies paragraphs 68–70 of IAS 38 to account for those costs. The Committee observed that:

- a. the customer recognises the costs as an expense when it receives the configuration or customisation services (paragraph 69). Paragraph 69A specifies that 'services are received when they are performed by a supplier in accordance with a contract to deliver them to the entity and not when the entity uses them to deliver another service'. In assessing when to recognise the costs as an expense, IAS 38 therefore requires the customer to determine when the supplier performs the configuration or customisation services in accordance with the contract to deliver those services.
- b. IAS 38 includes no requirements that deal with the identification of the services the customer receives in determining when the supplier performs those services in accordance with the contract to deliver them. Paragraphs 10–11 of IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* require the customer to refer to, and consider the applicability of, the requirements in IFRS Standards that deal with similar and related issues. The Committee observed that IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* includes requirements that suppliers apply in identifying the promised goods or services in a contract with a customer. For the fact pattern described in the request, those requirements in IFRS 15 deal with issues similar and related to those faced by the customer in determining when the supplier performs the configuration or customisation services in accordance with the contract to deliver those services.
- c. if the contract to deliver the configuration or customisation services to the customer is with the supplier of the application software (including cases in which the supplier subcontracts services to a third party), the customer applies paragraphs 69–69A of IAS 38 and determines when the supplier of the application software performs those services in accordance with the contract to deliver them as follows:
  - i. if the services the customer receives are distinct, then the customer recognises the costs as an expense when the supplier configures or customises the application software.

- ii. if the services the customer receives are not distinct (because those services are not separately identifiable from the customer's right to receive access to the supplier's application software), then the customer recognises the costs as an expense when the supplier provides access to the application software over the contract term.
- d. if the contract to deliver the configuration or customisation services to the customer is with a third-party supplier, the customer applies paragraphs 69–69A of IAS 38 and determines when the third-party supplier performs those services in accordance with the contract to deliver them. In applying these requirements, the customer recognises the costs as an expense when the third-party supplier configures or customises the application software.
- e. if the customer pays the supplier of the configuration or customisation services before receiving those services, it recognises the prepayment as an asset (paragraph 70 of IAS 38).

Paragraphs 117–124 of IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* require the customer to disclose its accounting policy for configuration or customisation costs when that disclosure is relevant to an understanding of its financial statements.

The Committee concluded that the principles and requirements in IFRS Standards provide an adequate basis for a customer to determine its accounting for configuration or customisation costs incurred in relation to the SaaS arrangement described in the request. Consequently, the Committee decided not to add a standard-setting project to the work plan.





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