

## **New Zealand Equivalent to International Accounting Standard 34**

### **Interim Financial Reporting (NZ IAS 34)**

**Issued November 2004 and incorporates amendments up to and including 31 October 2010**

This Standard was issued by the Financial Reporting Standards Board of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants and approved by the Accounting Standards Review Board in November 2004 under the Financial Reporting Act 1993. This Standard is a regulation for the purpose of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989.

This Standard, on adoption, supersedes Financial Reporting Standard No. 24 *Interim Financial Statements*.

The following New Zealand Interpretation refers to NZ IAS 34:

- NZ IFRIC 10 *Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment*

NZ IAS 34

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New Zealand Equivalent to International Accounting Standard 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* (NZ IAS 34) is set out in paragraphs 1–49. NZ IAS 34 is based on International Accounting Standard 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* (IAS 34) (1998) issued by the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) and adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). All the paragraphs have equal authority but retain the IASC format of the Standard when it was adopted by the IASB. NZ IAS 34 should be read in the context of its objective, the IASB’s Basis for Conclusions on IAS 34 and the New Zealand Equivalent to the IASB *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* (NZ Framework). NZ IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* provides a basis for selecting and applying accounting policies in the absence of explicit guidance.

Any additional material is shown with grey shading. The paragraphs are denoted with “NZ” and identify the types of entities to which the paragraphs apply.

This Standard uses the terminology adopted in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) to describe the financial statements and other elements. NZ IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2007) paragraph 5 explains that entities other than profit-oriented entities seeking to apply the Standard may need to amend the descriptions used for particular line items in the financial statements and for the financial statements themselves. For example, profit/loss may be referred to as surplus/deficit and capital or share capital may be referred to as equity.

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## HISTORY OF AMENDMENTS

### Table of Pronouncements – NZ IAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*

This table lists the pronouncements establishing and substantially amending NZ IAS 34. The table is based on amendments approved as at 31 October 2010.

<b>Pronouncements</b>	<b>Date approved (ASRB approval)</b>	<b>Early operative date</b>	<b>Effective date (annual reporting periods... on or after ...)</b>
NZ IAS 34 <i>Interim Financial Reporting</i>	Nov 2004 (Approval 25)	1 Jan 2005	1 Jan 2007
<i>Framework for Differential Reporting for Entities Applying the New Zealand Equivalents to IFRSs Financial Reporting Standards Reporting Regime (Framework for Differential Reporting)</i>	Jun 2005 (Approval 62)	1 Jan 2005	1 Jan 2007
Amendments to NZ IAS 1 <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i>	Oct 2005 (Approval 70)	First time adoption of NZ IFRSs	1 Jan 2007
NZ IFRS 8 <i>Operating Segments</i>	Dec 2006 (Approval 85)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2009
<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i>	Dec 2006 (Approval 86)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2007
NZ IAS 1 <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i> (revised 2007)	Nov 2007 (Approval 94)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2009
NZ IFRS 3 <i>Business Combinations</i> (revised 2008)	Feb 2008 (Approval 98)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2009
<i>Minor Amendments to NZ IFRSs (2008-1)</i>	Apr 2008 (Approval 101)	Early application permitted	1 June 2008
<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i>	June 2008 (Approval 102)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2009
<i>Amendment to NZ IAS 34—Scope</i>	Sept 2009 (Approval 121)	Early application permitted	1 July 2009
<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i>	July 2010 (Approval 131)	Early application permitted	1 Jan 2011

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<b>Pronouncements</b>	<b>Date approved (ASRB approval)</b>	<b>Early operative date</b>	<b>Effective date (annual reporting periods... on or after ...)</b>
Minor Amendments to NZ IFRSs	July 2010 (Approval 132)	Immediate	Immediate

<b>Table of Amended Paragraphs in NZ IAS 34</b>		
<b>Paragraph affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>	<b>By ... [date]</b>
Paragraph 3	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph 1	Amended	<i>Amendment to NZ IAS 34–Scope</i> [Sept 2009]
Paragraphs NZ 1.1 to NZ 1.3	Deleted	<i>Amendment to NZ IAS 34–Scope</i> [Sept 2009]
Paragraph NZ 3.1	Inserted	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph 4	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 5	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 8	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 8A	Inserted	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph NZ 10.1	Inserted	<i>Amendment to the Framework for Differential Reporting</i> [Dec 2005]
Paragraph 11	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 11	Replaced	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [June 2008]
Paragraph 11A	Inserted	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]

<b>Table of Amended Paragraphs in NZ IAS 34</b>		
<b>Paragraph affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>	<b>By ... [date]</b>
Paragraph 12	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 13	Deleted	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 15 and preceding heading	Amended	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Paragraph 15A	Inserted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Paragraph 15B	Inserted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Paragraph 15C	Inserted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Paragraph 16(g)	Amended	NZ IFRS 8 [Dec 2006]
Paragraph 16(i)	Amended	NZ IFRS 3 [Feb 2008]
Paragraphs 16–18	Deleted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Paragraph 16A and preceding heading	Inserted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]
Heading above paragraph 19	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph 19	Amended	Amendments to NZ IAS 1 [Oct 2005]
Paragraph 19	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraphs NZ 19.1	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph NZ 19.2	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph NZ 19.3	Amended	<i>Omnibus Amendments (2006-1)</i> [Dec 2006]
Paragraph 20	Amended	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]

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<b>Table of Amended Paragraphs in NZ IAS 34</b>		
<b>Paragraph affected</b>	<b>How affected</b>	<b>By ... [date]</b>
Paragraph 47	Inserted	NZ IAS 1 [Nov 2007]
Paragraph 48	Inserted	NZ IFRS 3 [Feb 2008]
Paragraph NZ 48.1	Inserted	<i>Amendment to NZ IAS 34–Scope</i> [Sept 2009]
Paragraph 49	Inserted	<i>Improvements to NZ IFRSs</i> [July 2010]



## Introduction to NZ IAS 34

The Standard:

- (a) defines the minimum content of an interim financial report, including disclosures; and
- (b) identifies the accounting recognition and measurement principles that should be applied in an interim financial report.

In adopting IAS 34 for application as NZ IAS 34 the following changes have been made. NZ IAS 34:

- (a) acknowledges that an interim financial report may include both financial statements and non-financial statements (paragraph NZ 5.1);
- (b) requires additional disclosures in the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in equity (paragraph NZ 10.1);
- (c) clarifies that the disclosure of earnings per share in an interim financial report is required only where an entity prepares and discloses earnings per share in accordance with NZ IAS 33 *Earnings per Share* in its annual financial statements (paragraph 11); and
- (d) requires that interim reports shall also include a comparative statement of financial position as of the end of the comparable interim period of the immediately preceding financial year (paragraph NZ 20.1).

Profit-oriented entities, other than qualifying entities applying any differential reporting concessions, that comply with NZ IAS 34 will simultaneously be in compliance with IAS 34. Public benefit entities using the “NZ” paragraphs in the Standard that specifically apply to public benefit entities may not simultaneously be in compliance with IAS 34. Whether a public benefit entity will be in compliance with IAS 34 will depend on whether the “NZ” paragraphs provide additional guidance for public benefit entities or contain requirements that are inconsistent with the corresponding IASB Standard and will be applied by the public benefit entity.

## Differential Reporting

Qualifying entities must comply with all the provisions in NZ IAS 34, except that they may apply differential reporting exemptions available under other specific New Zealand equivalents to IFRSs and Financial Reporting Standards.

# **New Zealand Equivalent to International Accounting Standard 34**

## ***Interim Financial Reporting (NZ IAS 34)***

### **Objective**

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The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the minimum content of an interim financial report and to prescribe the principles for recognition and measurement in complete or condensed financial statements for an interim period. Timely and reliable interim financial reporting improves the ability of investors, creditors, and others to understand an entity's capacity to generate earnings and cash flows and its financial condition and liquidity.

### **Scope**

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- 1 This Standard does not mandate which entities should be required to publish interim financial reports, how frequently, or how soon after the end of an interim period. However, governments, securities regulators, stock exchanges, and accountancy bodies often require entities whose debt or equity securities are publicly traded to publish interim financial reports. This Standard applies if an entity is required or elects to publish an interim financial report in accordance with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRSs).

<b>All Entities</b>	
NZ 1.1	[Deleted]
NZ 1.2	[Deleted]
NZ 1.3	[Deleted]

- 2 Each financial report, annual or interim, is evaluated on its own for conformity to NZ IFRSs. The fact that an entity may not have provided interim financial reports during a particular financial year or may have provided interim financial reports that do not comply with this Standard does not prevent the entity's annual financial statements from conforming to NZ IFRSs if they otherwise do so.
- 3 If an entity's interim financial report is described as complying with IFRSs, it must comply with all of the requirements of this Standard. Paragraph 19 requires certain disclosures in that regard.

**All Entities**

NZ 3.1 If an entity's interim financial report is described as complying with NZ IFRSs, it must comply with all of the requirements of this Standard. Paragraph NZ 19.1 requires certain disclosures in that regard.

**Definitions**

4 The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:

*Interim period* is a financial reporting period shorter than a full financial year.

*Interim financial report* means a financial report containing either a complete set of financial statements (as described in NZ IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2007)) or a set of condensed financial statements (as described in this Standard) for an interim period.

**Content of an interim financial report**

5 NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) defines a complete set of financial statements\* as including the following components:

- (a) a statement of financial position as at the end of the period;
- (b) a statement of comprehensive income for the period;
- (c) a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- (d) a statement of cash flows for the period;
- (e) notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- (f) a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements.

**All Entities**

NZ 5.1 NZ IAS 1 notes that financial statements may be published as part of a financial report which includes financial statements, non-financial statements such as statements of service performance and supplementary information which is additional to the information in financial and non-financial statements.

\* Refer to NZ IAS 1 paragraphs 10 and NZ 10.1 for details of the concessions available to qualifying entities and public benefit entities in respect of a complete set of financial statements.

- 6 In the interest of timeliness and cost considerations and to avoid repetition of information previously reported, an entity may be required to or may elect to provide less information at interim dates as compared with its annual financial statements. This Standard defines the minimum content of an interim financial report as including condensed financial statements and selected explanatory notes. The interim financial report is intended to provide an update on the latest complete set of annual financial statements. Accordingly, it focuses on new activities, events, and circumstances and does not duplicate information previously reported.
- 7 Nothing in this Standard is intended to prohibit or discourage an entity from publishing a complete set of financial statements (as described in NZ IAS 1) in its interim financial report, rather than condensed financial statements and selected explanatory notes. Nor does this Standard prohibit or discourage an entity from including in condensed interim financial statements more than the minimum line items or selected explanatory notes as set out in this Standard. The recognition and measurement guidance in this Standard applies also to complete financial statements for an interim period, and such statements would include all of the disclosures required by this Standard (particularly the selected note disclosures in paragraph 16) as well as those required by other Standards.

### **Minimum components of an interim financial report**

- 8 **An interim financial report shall include, at a minimum, the following components:**
- (a) **a condensed statement of financial position;**
  - (b) **a condensed statement of comprehensive income, presented as either:**
    - (i) **a condensed single statement; or**
    - (ii) **a condensed separate income statement and a condensed statement of comprehensive income;**
  - (c) **a condensed statement of changes in equity;**
  - (d) **a condensed statement of cash flows; and**
  - (e) **selected explanatory notes.**

**[Paragraph 8(c) amended in NZ IAS 34 for consistency with paragraph 5.]**

- 8A **If an entity presents the components of profit or loss in a separate income statement as described in paragraph 81 of NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007), it presents interim condensed information from that separate statement.**

## Form and content of interim financial statements

- 9 If an entity publishes a complete set of financial statements in its interim financial report, the form and content of those statements shall conform to the requirements of NZ IAS 1 for a complete set of financial statements.
- 10 If an entity publishes a set of condensed financial statements in its interim financial report, those condensed statements shall include, at a minimum, each of the headings and subtotals that were included in its most recent annual financial statements and the selected explanatory notes as required by this Standard. Additional line items or notes shall be included if their omission would make the condensed interim financial statements misleading.

### All Entities

**NZ 10.1** If an entity publishes a set of condensed financial statements in its interim financial report, in addition to the minimum disclosures required by paragraph 10, those condensed statements shall also include:

- (a) the line items required in the statement of comprehensive income by NZ IAS 1 paragraph 82;
- (b) the line items required in the statement of financial position by NZ IAS 1 paragraph 54; and
- (c) in respect of the statement of cash flows, gross cash inflows and outflows from each of the following categories of cash flows, except to the extent that such cash flows are reported on a net basis in accordance with NZ IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows*;
  - (i) operating activities;
  - (ii) investing activities; and
  - (iii) financing activities;
  - (iv) by way of note disclosure, a reconciliation of the net profit (loss) after taxation with the net cash flow from operating activities separately disclosing the material items; and
  - (v) by way of note disclosure, non-cash investing and financing transactions which affect assets and liabilities that have been recognised. Such notes shall be referenced to the appropriate items in the financial statements.

- 11 In the statement that presents the components of profit or loss for an interim period, an entity shall present basic and diluted earnings per share for that period when the entity is within the scope of NZ IAS 33 *Earnings per Share*.\*

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\* This paragraph was amended by *Improvements to NZ IFRSs* issued in June 2008 to clarify the scope of NZ IAS 34.

- 11A If an entity presents the components of profit or loss in a separate income statement as described in paragraph 81 of NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007), it presents basic and diluted earnings per share in that separate statement.**
- 12 NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) provides guidance on the structure of financial statements. The Implementation Guidance for IAS 1 illustrates ways in which the statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity may be presented.
- 13 [Deleted by IASB]
- 14 An interim financial report is prepared on a consolidated basis if the entity's most recent annual financial statements were consolidated statements. The parent's separate financial statements are not consistent or comparable with the consolidated statements in the most recent annual financial report. If an entity's annual financial report included the parent's separate financial statements in addition to consolidated financial statements, this Standard neither requires nor prohibits the inclusion of the parent's separate statements in the entity's interim financial report.

### **Significant events and transactions**

- 15 An entity shall include in its interim financial report an explanation of events and transactions that are significant to an understanding of the changes in financial position and performance of the entity since the last annual reporting period. Information disclosed in relation to those events and transactions shall update the relevant information presented in the most recent annual financial report.
- 15A A user of an entity's interim financial report will have access to the most recent annual financial report of that entity. Therefore, it is unnecessary for the notes to an interim financial report to provide relatively insignificant updates to the information that was reported in the notes in the most recent annual financial report.
- 15B The following is a list of events and transactions for which disclosures would be required if they are significant: the list is not exhaustive.
- (a) the write-down of inventories to net realisable value and the reversal of such a write-down;
  - (b) recognition of a loss from the impairment of financial assets, property, plant and equipment, intangible assets, or other assets, and the reversal of such an impairment loss;
  - (c) the reversal of any provisions for the costs of restructuring;
  - (d) acquisitions and disposals of items of property, plant and equipment;
  - (e) commitments for the purchase of property, plant and equipment;
  - (f) litigation settlements;
  - (g) corrections of prior period errors;

- (h) changes in the business or economic circumstances that affect the fair value of the entity's financial assets and financial liabilities, whether those assets or liabilities are recognised at fair value or amortised cost;
  - (i) any loan default or breach of a loan agreement that has not been remedied on or before the end of the reporting period;
  - (j) related party transactions;
  - (k) transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy used in measuring the fair value of financial instruments;
  - (l) changes in the classification of financial assets as a result of a change in the purpose or use of those assets; and
  - (m) changes in contingent liabilities or contingent assets.
- 15C Individual NZ IFRSs provide guidance regarding disclosure requirements for many of the items listed in paragraph 15B. When an event or transaction is significant to an understanding of the changes in an entity's financial position or performance since the last annual reporting period, its interim financial report should provide an explanation of and an update to the relevant information included in the financial statements of the last annual reporting period.
- 16–18 [Deleted by IASB]

## Other disclosures

- 16A In addition to disclosing significant events and transactions in accordance with paragraphs 15–15C, an entity shall include the following information, as a minimum, in the notes to its interim financial statements, if material and if not disclosed elsewhere in the interim financial report. The information shall normally be reported on a financial year-to-date basis.**
- (a) **a statement that the same accounting policies and methods of computation are followed in the interim financial statements as compared with the most recent annual financial statements or, if those policies or methods have been changed, a description of the nature and effect of the change.**
  - (b) **explanatory comments about the seasonality or cyclicity of interim operations.**
  - (c) **the nature and amount of items affecting assets, liabilities, equity, net income, or cash flows that are unusual because of their nature, size, or incidence.**
  - (d) **the nature and amount of changes in estimates of amounts reported in prior interim periods of the current financial year or changes in estimates of amounts reported in prior financial years.**
  - (e) **issues, repurchases, and repayments of debt and equity securities.**

- (f) **dividends paid (aggregate or per share) separately for ordinary shares and other shares.**
- (g) **the following segment information (disclosure of segment information is required in an entity's interim financial report only if NZ IFRS 8 *Operating Segments* requires that entity to disclose segment information in its annual financial statements):**
  - (i) **revenues from external customers, if included in the measure of segment profit or loss reviewed by the chief operating decision maker or otherwise regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker.**
  - (ii) **intersegment revenues, if included in the measure of segment profit or loss reviewed by the chief operating decision maker or otherwise regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker.**
  - (iii) **a measure of segment profit or loss.**
  - (iv) **total assets for which there has been a material change from the amount disclosed in the last annual financial statements.**
  - (v) **a description of differences from the last annual financial statements in the basis of segmentation or in the basis of measurement of segment profit or loss.**
  - (vi) **a reconciliation of the total of the reportable segments' measures of profit or loss to the entity's profit or loss before tax expense (tax income) and discontinued operations. However, if an entity allocates to reportable segments items such as tax expense (tax income), the entity may reconcile the total of the segments' measures of profit or loss to profit or loss after those items. Material reconciling items shall be separately identified and described in that reconciliation.**
- (h) **events after the interim period that have not been reflected in the financial statements for the interim period.**
- (i) **the effect of changes in the composition of the entity during the interim period, including business combinations, obtaining or losing control of subsidiaries and long-term investments, restructurings, and discontinued operations. In the case of business combinations, the entity shall disclose the information required by NZ IFRS 3 *Business Combinations*.**

## **Disclosure of compliance with IFRSs**

- 19** If an entity's interim financial report is in compliance with IAS 34, that fact shall be disclosed. An interim financial report shall not be described as complying with IFRSs unless it complies with all of the requirements of



**IFRSs.** [Paragraph 19 of IAS 34 amended by the FRSB to clarify that the paragraph refers to IAS 34.]

<p><b>All Entities</b></p> <p><b>NZ 19.1</b> If an entity's interim financial report is in compliance with NZ IAS 34 that fact shall be disclosed. An interim financial report shall not assert compliance with NZ IFRSs, and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for that entity, unless the financial statements comply with all the relevant requirements of those standards.</p> <p><b>Public Benefit Entities</b></p> <p><b>NZ 19.2</b> Public benefit entities are permitted, but are not required, to assert compliance with IAS 34 or IFRSs. Public benefit entities applying NZ IFRSs may not be in compliance with IAS 34 or IFRSs in circumstances where public benefit entity considerations have led to requirements that are inconsistent with the corresponding IFRS requirement.</p> <p><b>Qualifying Entities</b></p> <p><b>NZ 19.3</b> Qualifying entities applying differential reporting concessions that conflict with the requirements of IAS 34 will not be able to assert compliance with IAS 34. Qualifying entities applying differential reporting concessions will not be able to assert compliance with IFRSs.</p>
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## **Periods for which interim financial statements are required to be presented**

- 20** Interim reports shall include interim financial statements (condensed or complete) for periods as follows:
- (a) statement of financial position as of the end of the current interim period and a comparative statement of financial position as of the end of the immediately preceding financial year.
  - (b) statements of comprehensive income for the current interim period and cumulatively for the current financial year to date, with comparative statements of comprehensive income for the comparable interim periods (current and year-to-date) of the immediately preceding financial year. As permitted by NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007), an interim report may present for each period either a single statement of comprehensive income, or a statement displaying components of profit or loss (separate income statement) and a second statement beginning with profit or loss and displaying components of other comprehensive income (statement of comprehensive income).
  - (c) statement of changes in equity cumulatively for the current financial year to date, with a comparative statement for the comparable year-to-date period of the immediately preceding financial year.

- (d) **statement of cash flows cumulatively for the current financial year to date, with a comparative statement for the comparable year-to-date period of the immediately preceding financial year.**

**All Entities**

**NZ 20.1 In addition to the financial statements required by paragraph 20, interim reports shall also include a comparative statement of financial position as of the end of the comparable interim period of the immediately preceding financial year.**

- 21 For an entity whose business is highly seasonal, financial information for the twelve months up to the end of the interim period and comparative information for the prior twelve-month period may be useful. Accordingly, entities whose business is highly seasonal are encouraged to consider reporting such information in addition to the information called for in the preceding paragraph.
- 22 Appendix A illustrates the periods required to be presented by an entity that reports half-yearly and an entity that reports quarterly.

## **Materiality**

- 23 **In deciding how to recognise, measure, classify, or disclose an item for interim financial reporting purposes, materiality shall be assessed in relation to the interim period financial data. In making assessments of materiality, it shall be recognised that interim measurements may rely on estimates to a greater extent than measurements of annual financial data.**
- 24 NZ IAS 1 and NZ IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* define an item as material if its omission or misstatement could influence the economic decisions of users of the financial statements. NZ IAS 1 requires separate disclosure of material items, including (for example) discontinuing operations, and NZ IAS 8 requires disclosure of changes in accounting estimates, errors and changes in accounting policies. The two Standards do not contain quantified guidance as to materiality.
- 25 While judgement is always required in assessing materiality, this Standard bases the recognition and disclosure decision on data for the interim period by itself for reasons of understandability of the interim figures. Thus, for example, unusual items, changes in accounting policies or estimates, and errors are recognised and disclosed on the basis of materiality in relation to interim period data to avoid misleading inferences that might result from non-disclosure. The overriding goal is to ensure that an interim financial report includes all information that is relevant to understanding an entity's financial position and performance during the interim period.

## Disclosure in annual financial statements

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- 26 **If an estimate of an amount reported in an interim period is changed significantly during the final interim period of the financial year, but a separate financial report is not published for that final interim period, the nature and amount of that change in estimate shall be disclosed in a note to the annual financial statements for that financial year.**
- 27 NZ IAS 8 requires disclosure of the nature and (if practicable) the amount of a change in estimate that either has a material effect in the current period or is expected to have a material effect in subsequent periods. Paragraph 16(d) of this Standard requires similar disclosure in an interim financial report. Examples include changes in estimate in the final interim period relating to inventory write-downs, restructurings, or impairment losses that were reported in an earlier interim period of the financial year. The disclosure required by the preceding paragraph is consistent with the NZ IAS 8 requirement and is intended to be narrow in scope—relating only to the change in estimate. An entity is not required to include additional interim period financial information in its annual financial statements.

## Recognition and measurement

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### Same accounting policies as annual

- 28 **An entity shall apply the same accounting policies in its interim financial statements as are applied in its annual financial statements, except for accounting policy changes made after the date of the most recent annual financial statements that are to be reflected in the next annual financial statements. However, the frequency of an entity's reporting (annual, half-yearly, or quarterly) shall not affect the measurement of its annual results. To achieve that objective, measurements for interim reporting purposes shall be made on a year-to-date basis.**
- 29 Requiring that an entity apply the same accounting policies in its interim financial statements as in its annual statements may seem to suggest that interim period measurements are made as if each interim period stands alone as an independent reporting period. However, by providing that the frequency of an entity's reporting shall not affect the measurement of its annual results, paragraph 28 acknowledges that an interim period is a part of a larger financial year. Year-to-date measurements may involve changes in estimates of amounts reported in prior interim periods of the current financial year. But the principles for recognising assets, liabilities, income, and expenses for interim periods are the same as in annual financial statements.

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- 30 To illustrate:
- (a) the principles for recognising and measuring losses from inventory write-downs, restructurings, or impairments in an interim period are the same as those that an entity would follow if it prepared only annual financial statements. However, if such items are recognised and measured in one interim period and the estimate changes in a subsequent interim period of that financial year, the original estimate is changed in the subsequent interim period either by accrual of an additional amount of loss or by reversal of the previously recognised amount;
  - (b) a cost that does not meet the definition of an asset at the end of an interim period is not deferred in the statement of financial position either to await future information as to whether it has met the definition of an asset or to smooth earnings over interim periods within a financial year; and
  - (c) income tax expense is recognised in each interim period based on the best estimate of the weighted average annual income tax rate expected for the full financial year. Amounts accrued for income tax expense in one interim period may have to be adjusted in a subsequent interim period of that financial year if the estimate of the annual income tax rate changes.
- 31 Under the NZ *Framework*, recognition is the “process of incorporating in the balance sheet or income statement an item that meets the definition of an element and satisfies the criteria for recognition”. The definitions of assets, liabilities, income, and expenses are fundamental to recognition, at the end of both annual and interim financial reporting periods.
- 32 For assets, the same tests of future economic benefits apply at interim dates and at the end of an entity’s financial year. Costs that, by their nature, would not qualify as assets at financial year-end would not qualify at interim dates either. Similarly, a liability at the end of an interim reporting period must represent an existing obligation at that date, just as it must at the end of an annual reporting period.
- 33 An essential characteristic of income (revenue) and expenses is that the related inflows and outflows of assets and liabilities have already taken place. If those inflows or outflows have taken place, the related revenue and expense are recognised; otherwise they are not recognised. The NZ *Framework* says that “expenses are recognised in the income statement when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.... [The] NZ *Framework* does not allow the recognition of items in the balance sheet which do not meet the definition of assets or liabilities.”
- 34 In measuring the assets, liabilities, income, expenses, and cash flows reported in its financial statements, an entity that reports only annually is able to take into account information that becomes available throughout the financial year. Its measurements are, in effect, on a year-to-date basis.
- 35 An entity that reports half-yearly uses information available by mid-year or shortly thereafter in making the measurements in its financial statements for the

first six-month period and information available by year-end or shortly thereafter for the twelve-month period. The twelve-month measurements will reflect possible changes in estimates of amounts reported for the first six-month period. The amounts reported in the interim financial report for the first six-month period are not retrospectively adjusted. Paragraphs 16(d) and 26 require, however, that the nature and amount of any significant changes in estimates be disclosed.

- 36 An entity that reports more frequently than half-yearly measures income and expenses on a year-to-date basis for each interim period using information available when each set of financial statements is being prepared. Amounts of income and expenses reported in the current interim period will reflect any changes in estimates of amounts reported in prior interim periods of the financial year. The amounts reported in prior interim periods are not retrospectively adjusted. Paragraphs 16(d) and 26 require, however, that the nature and amount of any significant changes in estimates be disclosed.

### **Revenues received seasonally, cyclically, or occasionally**

- 37 **Revenues that are received seasonally, cyclically, or occasionally within a financial year shall not be anticipated or deferred as of an interim date if anticipation or deferral would not be appropriate at the end of the entity's financial year.**
- 38 Examples include dividend revenue, royalties, and government grants. Additionally, some entities consistently earn more revenues in certain interim periods of a financial year than in other interim periods, for example, seasonal revenues of retailers. Such revenues are recognised when they occur.

### **Costs incurred unevenly during the financial year**

- 39 **Costs that are incurred unevenly during an entity's financial year shall be anticipated or deferred for interim reporting purposes if, and only if, it is also appropriate to anticipate or defer that type of cost at the end of the financial year.**

### **Applying the recognition and measurement principles**

- 40 Appendix B provides examples of applying the general recognition and measurement principles set out in paragraphs 28–39.

### **Use of Estimates**

- 41 **The measurement procedures to be followed in an interim financial report shall be designed to ensure that the resulting information is reliable and that**

**all material financial information that is relevant to an understanding of the financial position or performance of the entity is appropriately disclosed. While measurements in both annual and interim financial reports are often based on reasonable estimates, the preparation of interim financial reports generally will require a greater use of estimation methods than annual financial reports.**

42 Appendix C provides examples of the use of estimates in interim periods.

## **Restatement of previously reported interim periods**

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**43 A change in accounting policy, other than one for which the transition is specified by a new NZ IFRS, shall be reflected by:**

- (a) restating the financial statements of prior interim periods of the current financial year and the comparable interim periods of any prior financial years that will be restated in the annual financial statements in accordance with NZ IAS 8; or**
- (b) when it is impracticable to determine the cumulative effect at the beginning of the financial year of applying a new accounting policy to all prior periods, adjusting the financial statements of prior interim periods of the current financial year, and comparable interim periods of prior financial years to apply the new accounting policy prospectively from the earliest date practicable.**

44 One objective of the preceding principle is to ensure that a single accounting policy is applied to a particular class of transactions throughout an entire financial year. Under NZ IAS 8, a change in accounting policy is reflected by retrospective application, with restatement of prior period financial data as far back as is practicable. However, if the cumulative amount of the adjustment relating to prior financial years is impracticable to determine, then under NZ IAS 8 the new policy is applied prospectively from the earliest date practicable. The effect of the principle in paragraph 43 is to require that within the current financial year any change in accounting policy is applied either retrospectively or, if that is not practicable, prospectively, from no later than the beginning of the financial year.

45 To allow accounting changes to be reflected as of an interim date within the financial year would allow two differing accounting policies to be applied to a particular class of transactions within a single financial year. The result would be interim allocation difficulties, obscured operating results, and complicated analysis and understandability of interim period information.

## **Effective date**

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46 This Standard becomes operative for an entity's interim financial statements where the interim period forms part of an annual accounting period beginning on

or after 1 January 2007 or where the interim period forms part of an annual accounting period in which an entity complies with NZ IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of New Zealand Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*.

- 47 NZ IAS 1 (as revised in 2007) amended the terminology used throughout New Zealand equivalents to IFRSs. In addition it amended paragraphs 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 20, deleted paragraph 13 and added paragraphs 8A and 11A. An entity shall apply those amendments for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009. If an entity applies NZ IAS 1 (revised 2007) for an earlier period, the amendments shall be applied for that earlier period.
- 48 NZ IFRS 3 (as revised in 2008) amended paragraph 16(i). An entity shall apply that amendment for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009. If an entity applies NZ IFRS 3 (revised 2008) for an earlier period, the amendment shall also be applied for that earlier period.

**All Entities**

NZ 48.1 *Amendment to NZ IAS 34–Scope* amended the scope of this Standard by amending paragraph 1 and deleting paragraphs NZ 1.1 to NZ 1.3. An entity shall apply that amendment for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009. Earlier application of the amendment is permitted. Where the amendment is applied to an earlier period that fact should be disclosed.

- 49 Paragraph 15 was amended, paragraphs 15A–15C and 16A were added and paragraphs 16–18 were deleted by *Improvements to NZ IFRSs* issued in July 2010. An entity shall apply those amendments for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2011. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies the amendments for an earlier period it shall disclose that fact.

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