



MEMBERS' HANDBOOK

Update No. 225

(Issued 24 January 2019)

This Update relates to Amendments to Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and HKAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*). The amendments clarify the definition of material and align the definition used across the Standards.

The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 prospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

<u>Document Reference and Title</u>	<u>Instructions</u>	<u>Explanations</u>
<u>VOLUME II</u>		
<u>Contents of Volume II</u>	Discard existing page i and replace with revised page i.	Revised contents page
HONG KONG FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (HKFRS)		
<u>HKAS 1 (Revised) <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i></u>	Replace the cover page and pages 2, 4 and 58 with revised cover page and revised pages 2, 4 and 58. Insert pages 55A–55K after page 55 and pages 91A–91F after page 91.	Refer above
<u>HKAS 8 <i>Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i></u>	Replace the cover page and pages 2, 4 and 22 with revised cover page and revised pages 2, 4 and 22. Insert page 22A after page 22 and page 29A after page 29.	Refer above



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(Updated to January 2019)

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HKAS 1 (Revised)
Revised ~~September 2018~~ January 2019

Effective for annual periods
beginning on or after 1 January 2009

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 1 (Revised)

Presentation of Financial Statements



Hong Kong Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
香港會計師公會

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Hong Kong Accounting Standard 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (HKAS 1) is set out in paragraphs 1–140 and Appendices A & D. All the paragraphs have equal authority. HKAS 1 should be read in the context of its objective and the Basis for Conclusions, the *Preface to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards* and the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. HKAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* provides a basis for selecting and applying accounting policies in the absence of explicit guidance.

This revised Standard was issued in December 2007 and revised in ~~December 2016~~ January 2019. It supersedes HKAS 1, issued in 2004, as amended in 2005.

Appendix D

Amendments to Definition of Material

The following sets out two versions of its amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 that are not yet effective, to allow early adoption of this amendment independent of the adoption of the Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework) in HKFRSs. References to the Conceptual Framework in the Basis for Conclusions are to the version of the Conceptual Framework issued in 2018 unless stated otherwise. However, the conclusions reached would be the same if the 2010 version of the Conceptual Framework were applied.

Once effective, the amendments set out below will be incorporated into the text of this Standard and this appendix will be deleted.

Paragraph 7 is amended for an entity that has not adopted the 2018 *Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in HKFRSs*, and paragraph 139T is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Definitions

7 ...

Material:

~~Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.~~

Information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity.

Materiality depends on the nature or magnitude of information, or both. An entity assesses whether information, either individually or in combination with other information, is material in the context of its financial statements taken as a whole.

Information is obscured if it is communicated in a way that would have a similar effect for primary users of financial statements to omitting or misstating that information. The following are examples of circumstances that may result in material information being obscured:

- (a) information regarding a material item, transaction or other event is disclosed in the financial statements but the language used is vague or unclear;
- (b) information regarding a material item, transaction or other event is scattered throughout the financial statements;
- (c) dissimilar items, transactions or other events are inappropriately aggregated;

- (d) similar items, transactions or other events are inappropriately disaggregated; and
- (e) the understandability of the financial statements is reduced as a result of material information being hidden by immaterial information to the extent that a primary user is unable to determine what information is material.

Assessing whether information an omission or misstatement could reasonably be expected to influence economic decisions of made by the primary users of a specific reporting entity's general purpose financial statements, and so be material, requires an entity to consider consideration of the characteristics of those users while also considering the entity's own circumstances.

Many existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors cannot require reporting entities to provide information directly to them and must rely on general purpose financial statements for much of the financial information they need. Consequently, they are the primary users to whom general purpose financial statements are directed. Financial statements are prepared for users who have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and who review and analyse the information diligently. At times, even well-informed and diligent users may need to seek the aid of an adviser to understand information about complex economic phenomena.

~~The Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements states in paragraph 25* that 'users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence.' Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making economic decisions.~~

² ~~In October 2010 the HKICPA replaced the Framework with the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting. Paragraph 25 was superseded by Chapter 3 of the Conceptual Framework.~~

...

Effective date

...

139T Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraph 5 of HKAS 8, and deleted paragraph 6 of HKAS 8. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Paragraph 7 is amended for an entity that has adopted the 2018 *Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS Standards*, and paragraph 139T is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Definitions

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Information is obscured if it is communicated in a way that would have a similar effect for primary users of financial statements to omitting or misstating that information. The following are examples of circumstances that may result in material information being obscured:

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- (b) information regarding a material item, transaction or other event is scattered throughout the financial statements;
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- (d) similar items, transactions or other events are inappropriately disaggregated; and
- (e) the understandability of the financial statements is reduced as a result of material information being hidden by immaterial information to the extent that a primary user is unable to determine what information is material.

~~Assessing whether information an omission or misstatement could reasonably be expected to influence economic decisions of made by the primary users of a specific reporting entity's general purpose financial statements, and so be material, requires an entity to consider consideration of the characteristics of those users while also considering the entity's own circumstances. Users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making economic decisions.~~

Many existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors cannot require reporting entities to provide information directly to them and must rely on general purpose financial statements for much of the financial information they need. Consequently, they are the primary users to whom general purpose financial statements are directed. Financial statements are prepared for users who have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and who review and analyse the information diligently. At times, even well-informed and diligent users may need to seek the aid of an adviser to understand information about complex economic phenomena.

...

Effective date

...

139T *Definition of Material* (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraph 5 of HKAS 8, and deleted paragraph 6 of HKAS 8. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Consequential amendments to other Standards

Amendments to the 2010 *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*

The following amendments are a consequence of the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8. These amendments are applied prospectively at the same time an entity applies the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8.

Paragraph QC11 is amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Materiality

QC11 Information is material if omitting, ~~it or~~ misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial reports (see paragraph OB5) make on the basis of those reports, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity. In other words, materiality is an entity-specific aspect of relevance based on the nature or magnitude, or both, of the items to which the information relates in the context of an individual entity's financial report. Consequently, the Board cannot specify a uniform quantitative threshold for materiality or predetermine what could be material in a particular situation.

Amendments to the 2018 *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*

The following amendments are a consequence of the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8. These amendments are applied prospectively at the same time an entity applies the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8.

Paragraph 2.11 is amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Materiality

- 2.11 Information is material if omitting, ~~it or~~ misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial reports (see paragraph 1.5) make on the basis of those reports, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity. In other words, materiality is an entity-specific aspect of relevance based on the nature or magnitude, or both, of the items to which the information relates in the context of an individual entity's financial report. Consequently, the Board cannot specify a uniform quantitative threshold for materiality or predetermine what could be material in a particular situation.

Amendments to HKAS 10 *Events after the Reporting Period*

Paragraph 21 is amended and paragraph 23C is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Non-adjusting events after the reporting period

21 If non-adjusting events after the reporting period are material, non-disclosure could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of the those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity. Accordingly, an entity shall disclose the following for each material category of non-adjusting event after the reporting period:

- (a) the nature of the event; and
- (b) an estimate of its financial effect, or a statement that such an estimate cannot be made.

...

Effective date

...

23C Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 21. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies the amendments to the definition of material in paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraphs 5 and 6 of HKAS 8.

Amendments to HKAS 34 *Interim Financial Reporting*

Paragraph 24 is amended and paragraph 58 is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Materiality

...

- 24 ~~HKAS 1 and HKAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* define~~ defines ~~an item as material if its omission or misstatement could influence the economic decisions of users of the financial statements.~~ HKAS 1 information and requires separate disclosure of material items, including (for example) discontinued operations, and HKAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* requires disclosure of changes in accounting estimates, errors, and changes in accounting policies. The two Standards do not contain quantified guidance as to materiality.

...

Effective date

...

- 58 *Definition of Material* (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 24. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies the amendments to the definition of material in paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraphs 5 and 6 of HKAS 8.

Amendments to HKAS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*

Paragraph 75 is amended and paragraph 104 is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Restructuring

...

75 A management or board decision to restructure taken before the end of the reporting period does not give rise to a constructive obligation at the end of the reporting period unless the entity has, before the end of the reporting period:

- (a) started to implement the restructuring plan; or
- (b) announced the main features of the restructuring plan to those affected by it in a sufficiently specific manner to raise a valid expectation in them that the entity will carry out the restructuring.

If an entity starts to implement a restructuring plan, or announces its main features to those affected, only after the reporting period, disclosure is required under HKAS 10 *Events after the Reporting Period*, if the restructuring is material and non-disclosure could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of the those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity.

...

Effective date

...

104 Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 75. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies the amendments to the definition of material in paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraphs 5 and 6 of HKAS 8.

Amendments to HKFRS 2 *Share-based Payment Implementation Guidance*

The following amendments are a consequence of the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8. These amendments are applied prospectively at the same time an entity applies the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8.

Paragraph IG17 (IG Example 11) is amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

...

Application of requirements

...

However, in some cases, the expense relating to an ESPP might not be material. IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* states that the accounting policies in IFRSs need not be applied when the effect of applying them is immaterial (IAS 8, paragraph 8). ~~IAS 8~~ IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* also states that information an omission or misstatement of an item is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could, individually or collectively, reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those the financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity. Materiality depends on the size and nature or magnitude of information, or both. An entity assesses whether information, either individually or in combination with other information, is material in the context of its financial statements taken as a whole the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor (IAS 8, paragraph 5 (IAS 1, paragraph 7). Therefore, in this example, the entity should consider whether the expense of CU256,000 is material.

...

Amendments to HKFRS 4 *Insurance Contracts Implementation Guidance*

The following amendments are a consequence of the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8. These amendments are applied prospectively at the same time an entity applies the amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 1 and HKAS 8.

Paragraphs IG15 and IG16 are amended. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Materiality

IG15 IAS 1 defines materiality and notes that a specific disclosure requirement in an IFRS need not be satisfied if the information is not material. ~~IAS 1 defines materiality as follows:~~

~~Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.~~

IG16 Paragraph 7 of IAS 1 also explains the following:

Assessing whether information an omission or misstatement could reasonably be expected to influence economic decisions of made by the primary users of a specific reporting entity's general purpose financial statements, and so be material, requires an entity to consider consideration of the characteristics of those users while also considering the entity's own circumstances. Many existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors cannot require reporting entities to provide information directly to them and must rely on general purpose financial statements for much of the financial information they need. Consequently, they are the primary users at whom general purpose financial statements are directed. Financial statements are prepared for users who have a reasonable level of knowledge of business and economic activities and who review and analyse the information diligently. At times, even well-informed and diligent users may seek the aid of an adviser to understand information about complex economic phenomena. The *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* states in paragraph 25* that 'users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence.' Therefore, ~~the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making economic decisions.~~

* IASC's *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* was adopted by the IASB in 2001. In September 2010 the IASB replaced the *Framework* with the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. Paragraph 25 was superseded by Chapter 3 of the *Conceptual Framework*.

APPENDICES

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on other IFRSs

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on Definition of Material

DISSENTING OPINIONS

GUIDANCE ON IMPLEMENTING

IAS 1 *PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

Appendix

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on *Definition of Material*

This appendix contains amendments to the Basis for Conclusions of IAS 1 that are not yet effective. Once effective, the amendments set out below will be incorporated into the text of the Basis for Conclusions of IAS 1 and this appendix will be deleted.

Paragraphs BC13A–BC13T and their related headings are added.

Definition of Material (paragraph 7)

Background

- BC13A The Board was informed at the *Discussion Forum on Financial Reporting Disclosure* it hosted in January^{*} through feedback on the amendments to IAS 1 in the 2014 Exposure Draft *Disclosure Initiative*, the 2017 Discussion Paper *Disclosure Initiative—Principles of Disclosure*, and from other sources, that entities experience difficulties in making materiality judgements when preparing financial statements.
- BC13B The feedback indicated that difficulties in making materiality judgements are generally behavioural rather than related to the definition of material. That feedback indicated that some entities apply the disclosure requirements in IFRS Standards mechanically, using them as a checklist for disclosures in their financial statements, rather than applying their judgement to determine what information is material. Some entities have said that it is easier to use a checklist approach than to apply judgement because of management resource constraints, and because following a mechanical approach means that their judgement is less likely to be challenged by auditors, regulators or users of their financial statements. Similarly, some entities say that they prefer to be cautious when deciding whether to omit disclosures to avoid the risk of being challenged by these parties.
- BC13C The Board concluded that these behavioural difficulties could best be addressed by providing guidance to help entities make materiality judgements, rather than by making substantive changes to the definition of material. Consequently, in September 2017 the Board issued IFRS Practice Statement 2 *Making Materiality Judgements* (Materiality Practice Statement).
- BC13D Although many stakeholders agreed that substantive changes to the definition of material were unnecessary, the Board received some feedback that the definition of material might encourage entities to disclose immaterial information in their financial statements. Feedback suggested that the Board should address the following points:
- (a) the phrase ‘could influence decisions of users’, to describe the threshold for deciding whether information is material, may be understood as requiring too much information to be provided, because almost anything ‘could’ influence the decisions of some users of the financial statements, even if such a possibility were remote;
 - (b) the phrase ‘information is material if omitting it or misstating it’ focuses only on information that cannot be omitted (material information) and does not also consider the effect of including immaterial information; and
 - (c) the definition refers to ‘users’ but does not specify their characteristics, which is interpreted by some as implying that an entity is required to consider all possible users of its financial statements when deciding what information to disclose.

* A Feedback Statement summarising the feedback from that forum and from the Board’s related survey on financial reporting disclosure is available on the IFRS Foundation website at <http://www.ifrs.org/-/media/project/disclosure-initiative/feedback-statement-discussion-forum-financial-reporting-disclosure-may-2013.pdf>.

- BC13E The Board also observed that the wording of the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework)* differed from the wording used in IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and IAS 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. The Board believes that the substance of the definitions is the same because these definitions all cover the omission or misstatement of information that could influence the decisions of users of financial statements. Nevertheless, the existence of more than one definition of material could be confusing and could imply that the Board intended these definitions to have different meanings and be applied differently in practice.
- BC13F Consequently, the Board decided to propose refinements to the definition of material and to align the definition across IFRS Standards and other publications. The Board observed that these refinements were intended to make the definition easier to understand and were not intended to alter the concept of materiality in IFRS Standards.

Refinements to the definition of material

- BC13G In September 2017 the Board published the Exposure Draft *Definition of Material* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8) which proposed a revised definition.
- BC13H The Board developed this definition by:
- (a) replacing the description of the threshold 'could influence' with 'could reasonably be expected to influence' to incorporate the existing clarification in paragraph 7 of IAS 1 which states: 'Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes *could reasonably be expected to be influenced* in making economic decisions' [emphasis added]. This wording helps to address concerns raised by some parties that the threshold 'could influence' in the existing definition of material is too low and might be applied too broadly (see paragraph BC13D(a)).
 - (b) using the wording of the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework*.^{*} The Board concluded that this wording was clearer than the definition in IAS 1 and IAS 8. However, the Board decided to refer to 'financial statements' rather than 'financial reports' in the amendments to IAS 1 to be consistent with the scope of that Standard.^{**} The *Conceptual Framework* definition also clarifies that the users to whom the definition refers are the primary users of an entity's financial reports or statements. Referring to the primary users in the definition of material in IAS 1 helps to respond to concerns that the term 'users' may be interpreted too widely (see paragraph BC13D(c)).
 - (c) including 'obscuring' in the definition of material to incorporate the existing concept in paragraph 30A of IAS 1 which states: 'An entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information with immaterial information or by aggregating items that have different natures or functions.' Referring to 'obscuring' in the definition of material is intended to respond to concerns that the effect of including immaterial information should also be considered in addition to 'misstating' and 'omitting' (see paragraphs BC13D(a) and (b)).
 - (d) relocating wording that explains rather than defines material from the definition itself to its explanatory paragraphs. This reorganisation clarifies which requirements are part of the definition and which paragraphs explain the definition.

* The wording in paragraph 2.11 of the *Conceptual Framework* is: 'Information is material if omitting it or misstating it could influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial reports make on the basis of those reports, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity'.

** Financial statements are a type of financial report.

- BC13I Some parties said that the Board should raise the threshold at which information becomes material by replacing ‘could’ with ‘would’ in the definition. However, the Board did not do this because it concluded that using ‘would’ would be a substantive change that might have unintended consequences. For example, ‘would influence decisions’ might be interpreted as a presumption that information is not material unless it can be proved otherwise, ie for information to be seen as material it would be necessary to prove that the information would influence the decisions of users of the financial statements.

Obscuring information

- BC13J Responses to the Exposure Draft *Definition of Material* (Proposed amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8) indicated strong support for the definition of material to be aligned across the *Conceptual Framework* and IFRS Standards. However, many respondents had some concerns—in particular about including the existing concept of ‘obscuring’ (as set out in paragraph 30A of IAS 1) in the definition of material in the way proposed in the Exposure Draft. Many respondents thought that if the Board were to include this concept in the definition, then ‘obscuring information’ would need to be more precisely defined or explained than it was in the Exposure Draft.
- BC13K The Board agreed with respondents that the concept of ‘obscuring information’ is inherently more judgemental than ‘omitting’ or ‘misstating’ information and considered removing the concept from the definition of material and its explanatory paragraphs altogether. However, the Board decided that the benefit of including ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material outweighed these concerns. Including this concept emphasises that obscuring information can affect the decisions of primary users just as omitting or misstating that information can. In particular, including ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material addresses concerns that the former definition could be perceived by stakeholders as focusing only on information that cannot be omitted (material information) and not also on why it may be unhelpful to include immaterial information.
- BC13L The Board did not intend to be prescriptive by including the word ‘obscuring’ in the definition of material and by further clarifying it—the Board is not prohibiting entities from disclosing immaterial information or introducing a required quality of explanations and information included in the financial statements. For example, the Board did not intend the addition of the word ‘obscure’ to prevent entities from providing information required by local regulators or prescribe how an entity organises and communicates information in the financial statements. Rather, the Board’s intention is to:
- (a) support the existing requirements in paragraph 30A of IAS 1 which state that ‘An entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information with immaterial information or by aggregating material items that have different natures or functions’; and
 - (b) help entities and other stakeholders avoid instances in which material information may be obscured by immaterial information to the extent that it has a similar effect on the primary users of financial statements to omitting or misstating that information.

Other amendments

- BC13M While the revised definition of material in IAS 1 has been based on the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework*, some adjustments were made to the *Conceptual Framework* definition to improve clarity and consistency between the *Conceptual Framework* and the IFRS Standards. The definition in the *Conceptual Framework*, however, continues to refer to ‘financial reports’ rather than ‘financial statements’.

- BC13N The Board also made amendments to the Materiality Practice Statement to align it with the revised definition of material. The Materiality Practice Statement continues to refer to both 'immaterial' and 'not material' as the Board concluded that these terms have the same meaning.
- BC13O As explained in paragraph BC13H, the amendments incorporate existing guidance from the *Conceptual Framework* and IAS 1 and are not substantive changes to the existing requirements in IFRS Standards. For this reason, the Board concluded that the guidance in the Materiality Practice Statement and the *Conceptual Framework* would not be affected by these amendments.
- BC13P Because the amendments are based on existing guidance, they are not considered to be substantive changes. The Board consequently concluded that amendments to other requirements in IFRS Standards are unnecessary, other than to update the definition of material where it is quoted or referred to directly.
- BC13Q The Board also decided that it was unnecessary to change all instances of 'economic decisions' to 'decisions', and all instances of 'users' to 'the primary users of financial statements' in IFRS Standards. In its *Conceptual Framework* project, the Board clarified that:
- (a) the terms 'primary users' and 'users' are intended to be interpreted the same way and both refer to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors who must rely on general purpose financial reports for much of the financial information they need (see the footnote to paragraph 1.5 of the *Conceptual Framework*); and
 - (b) the terms 'decisions' and 'economic decisions' are intended to be interpreted the same way.

Likely effects of the amendments to IFRS Standards

- BC13R In the Board's view, the amendments will improve understanding of the definition of material by:
- (a) aligning the wording of the definition in IFRS Standards and the *Conceptual Framework* to avoid the potential for confusion arising from different definitions;
 - (b) incorporating supporting requirements in IAS 1 into the definition to give them more prominence and clarify their applicability; and
 - (c) providing existing guidance on the definition of material in one place, together with the definition.
- BC13S The Board concluded that the amendments do not change existing requirements substantively because:
- (a) the refinements to the definition of material:
 - (i) are based on wording in the *Conceptual Framework* that is similar to but clearer than the existing definition in IAS 1 and IAS 8 (see paragraphs BC13E and BC13H(b)); and
 - (ii) incorporate wording that already exists in IAS 1 (see paragraphs BC13H(a), (c) and (d)).
 - (b) the clarification that 'users' are the primary users and the description of their characteristics have been taken from the *Conceptual Framework*.

- (c) the inclusion of 'obscuring information' reflects the existing requirement, as set out in paragraph 30A of IAS 1, that an entity shall not reduce the understandability of its financial statements by obscuring material information. This amendment is not expected to substantively change an entity's decisions about whether information is material—in no circumstances would obscuring information influence the decisions of users, if omitting or misstating the same information would have no influence on those decisions.

Consequently, the Board expects that the effect of the revised definition will be to help entities to make better materiality judgements.

Effective date of the amendments

BC13T Because the amendments do not substantively change existing requirements, the Board decided that:

- (a) prospective application is appropriate;
- (b) a long implementation period is unnecessary; and
- (c) early adoption of the amendments should be permitted.

Consequential amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on other Standards

The following amendments to the Bases for Conclusions are a consequence of the amendments to the definition of material in IAS 1 and IAS 8.

IFRS 17 Insurance

A footnote is added to the definition of material quoted in paragraph BC79.

- * Amendments to the definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* were issued in October 2018.

2018 *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*

Paragraph BC2.20A is added.

Materiality (October 2018)

BC2.20A The definition of material in the *Conceptual Framework* was amended to include a reference to 'obscuring information' and to replace the phrase 'could influence decisions' with 'could reasonably be expected to influence decisions'. Paragraphs BC13A–BC13T of the Basis for Conclusions on IAS 1 explains the reasons for those amendments.

HKAS 8
Revised ~~September 2018~~ January 2019

Effective for annual periods
beginning on or after 1 January 2005

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 8

Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors



Hong Kong Institute of
Certified Public Accountants
香港會計師公會

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APPENDICES:

A Comparison with International Accounting Standards

B Amendments to other pronouncements

C Amendments to Definition of Material

BASIS FOR CONCLUSIONS

APPENDIX:

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on Definition of Material

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

TABLE OF CONCORDANCE

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 8 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* (HKAS 8) is set out in paragraphs 1-56 and Appendix C. All the paragraphs have equal authority. HKAS 8 should be read in the context of its objective and the Basis for Conclusions, the *Preface to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards* and the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*.

Appendix C

Amendments to Definition of Material

The following sets out two versions of its amendments to the definition of material in HKAS 8 that are not yet effective, to allow early adoption of this amendment independent of the adoption of the Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework) in HKFRSs. References to the Conceptual Framework in the Basis for Conclusions are to the version of the Conceptual Framework issued in 2018 unless stated otherwise. However, the conclusions reached would be the same if the 2010 version of the Conceptual Framework were applied.

Once effective, the amendments set out below will be incorporated into the text of this Standard and this appendix will be deleted.

Paragraph 5 is amended for an entity that has not adopted the 2018 *Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in HKFRSs*. Paragraph 6 is deleted and paragraph 54H is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Definitions

5 ...

~~**Material Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.**~~ is defined in paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and is used in this Standard with the same meaning.

6 ~~Assessing whether an omission or misstatement could influence economic decisions of users, and so be material, requires consideration of the characteristics of those users. The *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* states in paragraph 25* that ‘users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence.’ Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making economic decisions. [Deleted]~~

* In October 2010 the HKICPA replaced the *Framework* with the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting*. Paragraph 25 was superseded by Chapter 3 of the *Conceptual Framework*.

Effective date

- ...
- 54H Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraph 5 of HKAS 8, and deleted paragraph 6 of HKAS 8. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Paragraph 5 is amended for an entity that has adopted the 2018 *Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in HKFRSs*. Paragraph 6 is deleted and paragraph 54H is added. New text is underlined and deleted text is struck through.

Definitions

- 5 ...
- ~~**Material Omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.**~~ is defined in paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and is used in this Standard with the same meaning.
- ...
- 6 ~~Assessing whether an omission or misstatement could influence economic decisions of users, and so be material, requires consideration of the characteristics of those users. Users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of business and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making economic decisions. [Deleted]~~
- ...

Effective date

- ...
- 54H Definition of Material (Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8), issued in January 2019, amended paragraph 7 of HKAS 1 and paragraph 5 of HKAS 8, and deleted paragraph 6 of HKAS 8. An entity shall apply those amendments prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies those amendments for an earlier period, it shall disclose that fact.

Appendix

Amendments to the Basis for Conclusions on Definition of Material

This appendix contains amendments to the Basis for Conclusions of IAS 8 that are not yet effective. Once effective, the amendments set out below will be incorporated into the text of the Basis for Conclusions of IAS 8 and this appendix will be deleted.

Paragraph BC21A is added.

BC21A As a consequence of the *Definition of Material* (Amendments to IAS 1 and IAS 8), issued in October 2018, the definition of material and the accompanying explanatory paragraphs have been replaced with a reference to the definition of material and explanatory paragraphs in IAS 1.* The Board made this change to avoid the duplication of the definition of material in the Standards.

* Refer to paragraphs BC13A–BC13T of the Basis for Conclusions on IAS 1.