
IASB[®] meeting

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| Date | October 2023 |
| Project | Second Comprehensive Review of the <i>IFRS for SMEs</i>[®] Accounting Standard |
| Topic | Cover Paper |
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This paper has been prepared for discussion at a public meeting of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). This paper does not represent the views of the IASB or any individual IASB member. Any comments in the paper do not purport to set out what would be an acceptable or unacceptable application of IFRS[®] Accounting Standards or the *IFRS for SMEs*[®] Accounting Standard. The IASB's technical decisions are made in public and are reported in the IASB[®] *Update*.

Purpose of this meeting

1. In September 2022, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) published Exposure Draft *Third edition of the IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard* (the Exposure Draft).
2. The purpose of this meeting is for the IASB to continue its redeliberations of the proposals in the Exposure Draft.

Overview of agenda papers for this meeting

3. The agenda papers for this meeting are:
 - (a) Agenda Paper 30A *Proposed revised Section 23 Revenue from Contracts with Customers*
 - (b) Agenda Paper 30B *Simplification of the control model in Section 9 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*
 - (c) Agenda Paper 30C *Recognition of development costs*
 - (d) Agenda Paper 30D *Recognition of borrowing costs*
 - (e) Agenda Paper 30E *Recent amendments to full IFRS Accounting Standards*

For the topics covered in the papers, the IASB is asked to consider feedback on the Exposure Draft and redeliberate the proposals in the Exposure Draft.

Background to this comprehensive review

4. In January 2020, the IASB published Request for Information *Comprehensive Review of the IFRS for SMEs Standard* (Request for Information) as a first step in its second comprehensive review. The objective of the Request for Information was to seek views on whether and how the IASB should amend the *IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard* (the Standard), including views on the IASB's proposed alignment approach (see paragraph 6 of this paper).
5. Overall, stakeholders who provided feedback on the alignment approach agreed with continuing to base the Standard on full IFRS Accounting Standards. Some respondents queried whether the alignment principles appropriately assessed the costs and benefits of any possible amendment to the Standard, considering the limited resources and capabilities of SMEs, and the IASB used this feedback to refine the alignment approach.
6. In September 2022, the IASB published the Exposure Draft using the alignment approach. The alignment approach treats alignment with full IFRS Accounting Standards as the starting point for developing the *IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard*, and applies the principles of relevance to SMEs, simplicity and faithful representation, including the assessment of costs and benefits, in determining whether and how that alignment should take place. The Exposure Draft was open for comment for 180 days, which ended on 7 March 2023.
7. The IASB received comprehensive feedback on the IASB's approach to this review and how to align the *IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard* with individual IFRS Accounting Standards through extensive outreach during the comment period on the Request for Information. This enabled a more targeted approach to obtaining feedback on the Exposure Draft. In particular, the Exposure Draft asked specific

questions about the issues that had been more contentious during developing the Exposure Draft.

8. At its June 2023 meeting, the IASB discussed the feedback on the Exposure Draft and redeliberated the proposed clarification to the definition of public accountability in the Exposure Draft.
9. The SME Implementation Group met on 13 July 2023 to discuss the feedback on the Exposure Draft and provide advice to the IASB. The [minutes from the SMEIG meeting](#) are available on the IFRS Foundation website. The staff will present the advice from the SMEIG when the IASB redeliberates the related topics in the Exposure Draft.
10. At its September 2023 meeting, the IASB discussed its project plan, staff research on the characteristics of SMEs, its approach to updating the IFRS for SMEs educational modules and findings from fieldwork on the revenue proposals in the Exposure Draft. The IASB also started its redeliberations of the proposals for impairment of financial assets in the Exposure Draft. The IASB's tentative decisions to date on the proposals in the Exposure Draft are set out in the appendix to this paper.

Next steps

11. The IASB will continue to redeliberate the proposals in the Exposure Draft as set out in the project plan.

Appendix—IASB tentative decisions to date on redeliberating the proposals in the Exposure Draft

| Month | Decision: |
|----------------|--|
| June 2023 | <p><i>Definition of public accountability</i></p> <p>The IASB tentatively decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to confirm the proposed amendment to paragraph 1.3(b) of the <i>IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard</i> (the Standard) to list banks, credit unions, insurance companies, securities brokers/dealers, mutual funds and investment banks as examples of entities that often meet the second criterion of public accountability. (b) to withdraw paragraph 1.3A of the Exposure Draft from the Standard, and not include it in the educational modules for the Standard and Basis for Conclusions on the Standard. (c) to explain in the Basis for Conclusions on the Standard its reasoning for deciding against further clarifying the role of local legislative and regulatory authorities in jurisdictions in the Preface to the Standard. (d) to consider whether other suggestions for guidance on the definition of public accountability should be covered in the educational modules supporting the Standard. |
| September 2023 | <p><i>Project plan</i></p> <p>The IASB discussed the project plan for the third phase of the second comprehensive review in the light of feedback on the Exposure Draft. The IASB tentatively decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to confirm the scope of the review and alignment approach as set out in the Exposure Draft. This approach treats alignment with IFRS Accounting Standards as the starting point, and applies the principles of relevance to SMEs, simplicity and faithful representation, including the assessment of costs and benefits, in determining whether and how that alignment should take place. (b) to continue to develop amendments to the <i>IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard</i> by applying the alignment approach to IFRS Accounting Standards. |

| Month | Decision: |
|-------------------|---|
| September 2023 | <p><i>Approach to providing educational material on the Standard</i></p> <p>The IASB decided to either update the <i>IFRS for SMEs</i> educational modules that support the second edition of the Standard, or provide similar comprehensive educational material on the third edition.</p> <p>Impairment of financial assets</p> <p>The IASB tentatively decided that the problem it addressed in introducing the expected credit loss model in IFRS 9 does not meet its principle of relevance to SMEs because the population of entities eligible to apply the <i>IFRS for SMEs Accounting Standard</i> that have significant exposure to credit risk is expected to be small.</p> <p>IASB members acknowledged that a small sub-group of SMEs, such as non-bank lenders, might have significant exposure to credit risk. The IASB asked the staff to research alternatives that would seek to recognise expected credit losses for this sub-group of entities.</p> |