

EXPOSURE DRAFT

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 23

Borrowing Costs

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Borrowing Costs

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Hong Kong Accounting Standard 23

Borrowing Costs

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 23 *Borrowing Costs* (HKAS 23) is set out in paragraph 1-31. All the paragraphs have equal authority. HKAS 23 should be read in the context of its objective, the *Preface to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards* and the *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements*. 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.

Objective

The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the accounting treatment for borrowing costs. This Standard generally requires the immediate expensing of borrowing costs. However, the Standard permits, as an allowed alternative treatment, the capitalisation of borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset.

Scope

1. *This Standard shall be applied in accounting for borrowing costs.*
2. This Standard supersedes SSAP 19 *Borrowing Costs* issued in 1996.
3. This Standard does not deal with the actual or imputed cost of equity, including preferred capital not classified as a liability.

Definitions

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

Borrowing costs are interest and other costs incurred by an enterprise in connection with the borrowing of funds.

A qualifying asset is an asset that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale.

5. Borrowing costs may include:
 - (a) interest on bank overdrafts and short-term and long-term borrowings;
 - (b) amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings;
 - (c) amortisation of ancillary costs incurred in connection with the arrangement of borrowings;
 - (d) finance charges in respect of finance leases recognised in accordance with HKAS 17 *Leases*; and
 - (e) exchange differences arising from foreign currency borrowings to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest costs.

6. Examples of qualifying assets are inventories that require a substantial period of time to bring them to a saleable condition, manufacturing plants, power generation facilities and investment properties. Other investments, and those inventories that are routinely manufactured or otherwise produced in large quantities on a repetitive basis over a short period of time, are not qualifying assets. Assets that are ready for their intended use or sale when acquired also are not qualifying assets.

Borrowing Costs - Benchmark Treatment

Recognition

7. *Borrowing costs should be recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.*
8. Under the benchmark treatment borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred regardless of how the borrowings are applied.

Disclosure

9. *The financial statements should disclose the accounting policy adopted for borrowing costs.*

Borrowing Costs - Allowed Alternative Treatment

Recognition

10. *Borrowing costs should be recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except to the extent that they are capitalised in accordance with paragraph 11.*
11. *Borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset should be capitalised as part of the cost of that asset. The amount of borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation should be determined in accordance with this Standard.*
12. Under the allowed alternative treatment, borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset are included in the cost of that asset. Such borrowing costs are capitalised as part of the cost of the asset when it is probable that they will result in future economic benefits to the enterprise and the costs can be measured reliably. Other borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Borrowing Costs Eligible for Capitalisation

13. The borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset are those borrowing costs that would have been avoided if the expenditure on the qualifying asset had not been made. When an enterprise borrows funds specifically for the purpose of obtaining a particular qualifying asset, the borrowing costs that directly relate to that qualifying asset can be readily identified.

14. It may be difficult to identify a direct relationship between particular borrowings and a qualifying asset and to determine the borrowings that could otherwise have been avoided. Such a difficulty occurs, for example, when the financing activity of an enterprise is co-ordinated centrally. Difficulties also arise when a group uses a range of debt instruments to borrow funds at varying rates of interest, and lends those funds on various bases to other enterprises in the group. Other complications arise through the use of loans denominated in or linked to foreign currencies, when the group operates in highly inflationary economies, and from fluctuations in exchange rates. As a result, the determination of the amount of borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of a qualifying asset is difficult and the exercise of judgement is required.
15. ***To the extent that funds are borrowed specifically for the purpose of obtaining a qualifying asset, the amount of borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation on that asset should be determined as the actual borrowing costs incurred on that borrowing during the period less any investment income on the temporary investment of those borrowings.***
16. The financing arrangements for a qualifying asset may result in an enterprise obtaining borrowed funds and incurring associated borrowing costs before some or all of the funds are used for expenditures on the qualifying asset. In such circumstances, the funds are often temporarily invested pending their expenditure on the qualifying asset. In determining the amount of borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation during a period, any investment income earned on such funds is deducted from the borrowing costs incurred.
17. ***To the extent that funds are borrowed generally and used for the purpose of obtaining a qualifying asset, the amount of borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation should be determined by applying a capitalisation rate to the expenditures on that asset. The capitalisation rate should be the weighted average of the borrowing costs applicable to the borrowings of the enterprise that are outstanding during the period, other than borrowings made specifically for the purpose of obtaining a qualifying asset. The amount of borrowing costs capitalised during a period should not exceed the amount of borrowing costs incurred during that period.***
18. In some circumstances, it is appropriate to include all borrowings of the parent and its subsidiaries when computing a weighted average of the borrowing costs; in other circumstances, it is appropriate for each subsidiary to use a weighted average of the borrowing costs applicable to its own borrowings.

Excess of the Carrying Amount of the Qualifying Asset over Recoverable Amount

19. When the carrying amount or the expected ultimate cost of the qualifying asset exceeds its recoverable amount or net realisable value, the carrying amount is written down or written off in accordance with the requirements of other Hong Kong Accounting Standards. In certain circumstances, the amount of the write-down or write-off is written back in accordance with those other Hong Kong Accounting Standards.

Commencement of Capitalisation

20. *The capitalisation of borrowing costs as part of the cost of a qualifying asset should commence when:*
- (a) *expenditures for the asset are being incurred;*
 - (b) *borrowing costs are being incurred; and*
 - (c) *activities that are necessary to prepare the asset for its intended use or sale are in progress.*
21. Expenditures on a qualifying asset include only those expenditures that have resulted in payments of cash, transfers of other assets or the assumption of interest-bearing liabilities. Expenditures are reduced by any progress payments received and grants received in connection with the asset (see HKAS 20 *Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance*). The average carrying amount of the asset during a period, including borrowing costs previously capitalised, is normally a reasonable approximation of the expenditures to which the capitalisation rate is applied in that period.
22. The activities necessary to prepare the asset for its intended use or sale encompass more than the physical construction of the asset. They include technical and administrative work prior to the commencement of physical construction, such as the activities associated with obtaining permits prior to the commencement of the physical construction. However, such activities exclude the holding of an asset when no production or development that changes the asset's condition is taking place. For example, borrowing costs incurred while land is under development are capitalised during the period in which activities related to the development are being undertaken. However, borrowing costs incurred while land acquired for building purposes is held without any associated development activity do not qualify for capitalisation.

Suspension of Capitalisation

23. *Capitalisation of borrowing costs should be suspended during extended periods in which active development is interrupted.*
24. Borrowing costs may be incurred during an extended period in which the activities necessary to prepare an asset for its intended use or sale are interrupted. Such costs are costs of holding partially completed assets and do not qualify for capitalisation. However, capitalisation of borrowing costs is not normally suspended during a period when substantial technical and administrative work is being carried out. Capitalisation of borrowing costs is also not suspended when a temporary delay is a necessary part of the process of getting an asset ready for its intended use or sale. For example, capitalisation continues during the extended period needed for inventories to mature or the extended period during which high water levels delay construction of a bridge, if such high water levels are common during the construction period in the geographic region involved.

Cessation of Capitalisation

25. *Capitalisation of borrowing costs should cease when substantially all the activities necessary to prepare the qualifying asset for its intended use or sale are complete.*

26. An asset is normally ready for its intended use or sale when the physical construction of the asset is complete even though routine administrative work might still continue. If minor modifications, such as the decoration of a property to the purchaser's or user's specification, are all that are outstanding, this indicates that substantially all the activities are complete.
27. *When the construction of a qualifying asset is completed in parts and each part is capable of being used while construction continues on other parts, capitalisation of borrowing costs should cease when substantially all the activities necessary to prepare that part for its intended use or sale are completed.*
28. A business park comprising several buildings, each of which can be used individually is an example of a qualifying asset for which each part is capable of being usable while construction continues on other parts. An example of a qualifying asset that needs to be complete before any part can be used is an industrial plant involving several processes which are carried out in sequence at different parts of the plant within the same site, such as a steel mill.

Disclosure

29. *The financial statements should disclose:*
- (a) *the accounting policy adopted for borrowing costs;*
 - (b) *the amount of borrowing costs capitalised during the period; and*
 - (c) *the capitalisation rate used to determine the amount of borrowing costs eligible for capitalisation.*

Transitional Provisions

30. *When the adoption of this Standard constitutes a change in accounting policy, an enterprise is encouraged to adjust its financial statements in accordance with HKAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. Alternatively, enterprises following the benchmark treatment shall apply the new policy prospectively and therefore would not adjust the financial statements for should capitalise only those borrowing costs that were incurred after capitalised before the effective date of the Standard.*

Effective Date

31. *This Hong Kong Accounting Standard becomes operative for financial statements covering periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.*

Appendix

Comparison with International Accounting Standards

This comparison appendix, which was prepared as at 9 March 2004 and deals only with significant differences in the standards extant, is produced for information only and does not form part of the standards in HKAS 23.

The International Accounting Standard comparable with HKAS 23 is IAS 23 *Borrowing Costs*.

There are no major textual differences between HKAS 23 and IAS 23.