

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 10

Events after the Reporting Period



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

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Hong Kong Accounting Standard 10 *Events after the Reporting Period* (HKAS 10) is set out in paragraphs 1-24 and the Appendix. All the paragraphs have equal authority. HKAS 10 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.

Introduction

- IN1 Hong Kong Accounting Standard 10 *Events after the Reporting Period* (HKAS 10)* should be applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. Earlier application is encouraged.

Reasons for issuing HKAS 10

- IN2 The objectives of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) issuing HKAS 10 were to reduce or eliminate alternatives, redundancies and conflicts within the Standards, to deal with some convergence issues and to make other improvements.
- IN3 For HKAS 10 the HKICPA's main objective was a limited clarification of the accounting for dividends declared after the reporting period. The HKICPA did not reconsider the fundamental approach to the accounting for events after the reporting period contained in HKAS 10.

The main features

- IN4 HKAS 10 states that if an entity declares dividends after the reporting period, the entity shall not recognise those dividends as a liability at the end of the reporting period.

* As a consequence of the revision of HKAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* in December 2007, the title of HKAS 10 was amended from *Events after the Balance Sheet Date* to *Events after the Reporting Period*.

Hong Kong Accounting Standard 10

Events after the Reporting Period

Objective

- 1 The objective of this Standard is to prescribe:
- (a) when an entity should adjust its financial statements for events after the reporting period; and
 - (b) the disclosures that an entity should give about the date when the financial statements were authorised for issue and about events after the reporting period.

The Standard also requires that an entity should not prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis if events after the reporting period indicate that the going concern assumption is not appropriate.

Scope

- 2 **This Standard shall be applied in the accounting for, and disclosure of, events after the reporting period.**

Definitions

- 3 **The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:**
- Events after the reporting period are those events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:*
- (a) **those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period (*adjusting events after the reporting period*); and**
 - (b) **those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (*non-adjusting events after the reporting period*).**
- 4 The process involved in authorising the financial statements for issue will vary depending upon the management structure, statutory requirements and procedures followed in preparing and finalising the financial statements.
- 5 In some cases, an entity is required to submit its financial statements to its shareholders for approval after the financial statements have been issued. In such cases, the financial statements are authorised for issue on the date of issue, not the date when shareholders approve the financial statements.

Example

The management of an entity completes draft financial statements for the year to 31 December 20X1 on 28 February 20X2. On 18 March 20X2, the board of directors reviews the financial statements and authorises them for issue. The entity announces its profit and selected other financial information on 19 March 20X2. The financial statements are made available to shareholders and others on 1 April 20X2. The shareholders approve the financial statements at their annual meeting on 15 May 20X2 and the approved financial statements are then filed with a regulatory body on 17 May 20X2.

The financial statements are authorised for issue on 18 March 20X2 (date of board authorisation for issue).

- 6 In some cases, the management of an entity is required to issue its financial statements to a supervisory board (made up solely of non-executives) for approval. In such cases, the financial statements are authorised for issue when the management authorises them for issue to the supervisory board.

Example

On 18 March 20X2, the management of an entity authorises financial statements for issue to its supervisory board. The supervisory board is made up solely of non-executives and may include representatives of employees and other outside interests. The supervisory board approves the financial statements on 26 March 20X2. The financial statements are made available to shareholders and others on 1 April 20X2. The shareholders approve the financial statements at their annual meeting on 15 May 20X2 and the financial statements are then filed with a regulatory body on 17 May 20X2.

The financial statements are authorised for issue on 18 March 20X2 (date of management authorisation for issue to the supervisory board).

- 7 Events after the reporting period include all events up to the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue, even if those events occur after the public announcement of profit or of other selected financial information.

Recognition and measurement

Adjusting events after the reporting period

- 8 **An entity shall adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting period.**
- 9 The following are examples of adjusting events after the reporting period that require an entity to adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements, or to recognise items that were not previously recognised:
- (a) the settlement after the reporting period of a court case that confirms that the entity had a present obligation at the end of the reporting period. The entity adjusts any previously recognised provision related to this court case in accordance with HKAS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* or recognises a new provision. The entity does not merely disclose a contingent liability because the settlement provides additional evidence that would be considered in accordance with paragraph 16 of HKAS 37.

- (b) the receipt of information after the reporting period indicating that an asset was impaired at the end of the reporting period, or that the amount of a previously recognised impairment loss for that asset needs to be adjusted. For example:
 - (i) the bankruptcy of a customer that occurs after the reporting period usually confirms that the customer was credit-impaired at the end of the reporting period; and
 - (ii) the sale of inventories after the reporting period may give evidence about their net realisable value at the end of the reporting period.
- (c) the determination after the reporting period of the cost of assets purchased, or the proceeds from assets sold, before the end of the reporting period.
- (d) the determination after the reporting period of the amount of profit-sharing or bonus payments, if the entity had a present legal or constructive obligation at the end of the reporting period to make such payments as a result of events before that date (see HKAS 19 *Employee Benefits*).
- (e) the discovery of fraud or errors that show that the financial statements are incorrect.

Non-adjusting events after the reporting period

10 An entity shall not adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements to reflect non-adjusting events after the reporting period.

- 11 An example of a non-adjusting event after the reporting period is a decline in fair value of investments between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. The decline in fair value does not normally relate to the condition of the investments at the end of the reporting period, but reflects circumstances that have arisen subsequently. Therefore, an entity does not adjust the amounts recognised in its financial statements for the investments. Similarly, the entity does not update the amounts disclosed for the investments as at the end of the reporting period, although it may need to give additional disclosure under paragraph 21.

Dividends

12 If an entity declares dividends to holders of equity instruments (as defined in HKAS 32 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*) after the reporting period, the entity shall not recognise those dividends as a liability at the end of the reporting period.

- 13 If dividends are declared after the reporting period but before the financial statements are authorised for issue, the dividends are not recognised as a liability at the end of the reporting period because no obligation exists at that time. Such dividends are disclosed in the notes in accordance with HKAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*¹.

¹ For Hong Kong incorporated companies, please also refer to the legal requirements as set out in Appendix of HKAS 1.

Going concern

- 14 **An entity shall not prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis if management determines after the reporting period either that it intends to liquidate the entity or to cease trading, or that it has no realistic alternative but to do so.**
- 15 Deterioration in operating results and financial position after the reporting period may indicate a need to consider whether the going concern assumption is still appropriate. If the going concern assumption is no longer appropriate, the effect is so pervasive that this Standard requires a fundamental change in the basis of accounting, rather than an adjustment to the amounts recognised within the original basis of accounting.
- 16 HKAS 1 specifies required disclosures if:
- (a) the financial statements are not prepared on a going concern basis; or
 - (b) management is aware of material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt upon the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. The events or conditions requiring disclosure may arise after the reporting period.

Disclosure

Date of authorisation for issue

- 17 **An entity shall disclose the date when the financial statements were authorised for issue and who gave that authorisation. If the entity's owners or others have the power to amend the financial statements after issue, the entity shall disclose that fact.**
- 18 It is important for users to know when the financial statements were authorised for issue, because the financial statements do not reflect events after this date.

Updating disclosure about conditions at the end of the reporting period

- 19 **If an entity receives information after the reporting period about conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period, it shall update disclosures that relate to those conditions, in the light of the new information.**
- 20 In some cases, an entity needs to update the disclosures in its financial statements to reflect information received after the reporting period, even when the information does not affect the amounts that it recognises in its financial statements. One example of the need to update disclosures is when evidence becomes available after the reporting period about a contingent liability that existed at the end of the reporting period. In addition to considering whether it should recognise or change a provision under HKAS 37, an entity updates its disclosures about the contingent liability in the light of that evidence.

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 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. 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.**
- 22 The following are examples of non-adjusting events after the reporting period that would generally result in disclosure:
- (a) a major business combination after the reporting period (HKFRS 3 *Business Combinations* requires specific disclosures in such cases) or disposing of a major subsidiary;
 - (b) announcing a plan to discontinue an operation;
 - (c) major purchases of assets, classification of assets as held for sale in accordance with HKFRS 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*, other disposals of assets, or expropriation of major assets by government;
 - (d) the destruction of a major production plant by a fire after the reporting period;
 - (e) announcing, or commencing the implementation of, a major restructuring (see HKAS 37);
 - (f) major ordinary share transactions and potential ordinary share transactions after the reporting period (HKAS 33 *Earnings per Share* requires an entity to disclose a description of such transactions, other than when such transactions involve capitalisation or bonus issues, share splits or reverse share splits all of which are required to be adjusted under HKAS 33);
 - (g) abnormally large changes after the reporting period in asset prices or foreign exchange rates;
 - (h) changes in tax rates or tax laws enacted or announced after the reporting period that have a significant effect on current and deferred tax assets and liabilities (see HKAS 12 *Income Taxes*);
 - (i) entering into significant commitments or contingent liabilities, for example, by issuing significant guarantees; and
 - (j) commencing major litigation arising solely out of events that occurred after the reporting period.

Effective date

- 23 **An entity shall apply this Standard for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. Earlier application is encouraged. If an entity applies this Standard for a period beginning before 1 January 2005, it shall disclose that fact.**
- 23a If an entity decides to apply this Standard for an earlier period, it is not required to apply all the HKASs with the effective date for that same period. However, it is required to apply the amendments set out in the appendix on amendments to other pronouncements for that earlier period.
- 23A HKFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, issued in June 2011, amended paragraph 11. An entity shall apply that amendment when it applies HKFRS 13.
- 23B HKFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*, as issued in September 2014, amended paragraph 9. An entity shall apply that amendment when it applies HKFRS 9.
- 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.

Withdrawal of SSAP 9 (revised 2001)

- 24 This Standard supersedes SSAP 9 *Events After the Balance Sheet Date* (revised in 2001).

Appendix

Amendments to other pronouncements

The amendments in this appendix shall be applied for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. If an entity applies this Standard for an earlier period, these amendments shall be applied for that earlier period.

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The amendments contained in this appendix when this Standard was revised have been incorporated into the relevant Standards.

Basis for Conclusions on IAS 10 *Events after the Reporting Period*¹

This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, IAS 10.

HKAS 10 is based on IAS 10, *Events after the Reporting Period*. In approving HKAS 10, the Council of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants considered and agreed with the IASB's basis for conclusions on IAS 10 (as revised 2003). Accordingly, there are no significant differences between HKAS 10 and IAS 10. The IASB's basis for conclusions is reproduced below for reference. The paragraph numbers of IAS 10 referred to below generally correspond with those in HKAS 10.

Introduction

- BC1 This Basis for Conclusions summarises the International Accounting Standards Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions on revising IAS 10 *Events After the Balance Sheet Date* in 2003. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.
- BC2 In July 2001 the Board announced that, as part of its initial agenda of technical projects, it would undertake a project to improve a number of Standards, including IAS 10. The project was undertaken in the light of queries and criticisms raised in relation to the Standards by securities regulators, professional accountants and other interested parties. The objectives of the Improvements project were to reduce or eliminate alternatives, redundancies and conflicts within Standards, to deal with some convergence issues and to make other improvements. In May 2002 the Board published its proposals in an Exposure Draft of *Improvements to International Accounting Standards*, with a comment deadline of 16 September 2002. The Board received over 160 comment letters on the Exposure Draft.
- BC3 Because the Board's intention was not to reconsider the fundamental approach to the accounting for events after the balance sheet date established by IAS 10, this Basis for Conclusions does not discuss requirements in IAS 10 that the Board has not reconsidered.

Limited clarification

- BC4 For this limited clarification of IAS 10 the main change made is in paragraphs 12 and 13 (paragraphs 11 and 12 of the previous version of IAS 10). As revised, those paragraphs state that if dividends are declared after the balance sheet date,² an entity shall not recognise those dividends as a liability at the balance sheet date. This is because undeclared dividends do not meet the criteria of a present obligation in IAS 37 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*. The Board discussed whether or not an entity's past practice of paying dividends could be considered a constructive obligation. The Board concluded that such practices do not give rise to a liability to pay dividends.³

¹ In September 2007 the IASB amended the title of IAS 10 from *Events after the Balance Sheet Date* to *Events after the Reporting Period* as a consequence of the amendments in IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2007).

² IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2007) replaced the term 'balance sheet date' with 'end of the reporting period'.

³ In 2007 the Board was advised that paragraph 13, taken in isolation, could be read to imply that a liability should be recognised in some circumstances on the basis that a constructive obligation exists, such as when there is an established pattern of paying a dividend. Therefore, the Board amended paragraph 13 by *Improvements to IFRSs* issued in May 2008 to state that no such obligation exists.