IASB documents published to accompany

IAS 41

Agriculture

The text of the unaccompanied standard, IAS 41, is contained in Part A of this edition. Its effective date when issued was 1 January 2003. The text of the Accompanying Guidance on IAS 41 is contained in Part B of this edition. This part presents the following documents:

Basis for Conclusions on IAS 41 *Agriculture*

This Basis for Conclusions accompanies, but is not part of, IAS 41.

Introduction

BC1 This Basis for Conclusions summarises the International Accounting Standards Board's considerations in reaching its conclusions on amending IAS 41 *Agriculture*, including by issuing *Agriculture: Bearer Plants* (Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41)[1] in June 2014. Individual Board members gave greater weight to some factors than to others.

BC2 Because the Board's intention was not to reconsider the fundamental approach to the accounting for agriculture established by IAS 41, this Basis for Conclusions does not discuss requirements in IAS 41 that the Board has not reconsidered. The IASC Basis for Conclusions on IAS 41 follows this Basis.

Scope (2008 and 2014 amendments)

Costs to sell (paragraph 5) – 2008 amendments

BC3 Before the *Improvements to IFRSs* issued in May 2008, IAS 41 used the term 'point- of- sale costs'. This term was not used elsewhere in IFRSs. The term 'costs to sell' is used in IFRS 5 *Non- current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations* and IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets*. The Board decided that 'point- of- sale costs' and 'costs to sell' meant the same thing in the context of IAS 41. The word 'incremental' in the definition of 'costs to sell' excludes costs that are included in the fair value measurement of a biological asset, such as transport costs. It includes costs that are necessary for a sale to occur but that would not otherwise arise, such as commissions to brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and commodity exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. Both terms relate to transaction costs arising at the point of sale.

BC4 Therefore, the Board decided to replace the terms 'point- of- sale costs' and 'estimated point- of- sale costs' with 'costs to sell' to make IAS 41 consistent with IFRS 5 and IAS 36.

Produce growing on bearer plants – 2014 amendments

BC4A Before *Agriculture: Bearer Plants* (Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41) was issued in June 2014, IAS 41 required all biological assets related to agricultural activity to be measured at fair value less costs to sell. However, the Board observed that there is a class of biological assets, bearer plants, that are held by an entity solely to grow produce over their productive life. The Board's principal decision underlying the 2014 amendments is that bearer plants should be treated as property, plant and equipment. Accordingly, the Board decided to account for bearer plants as property, plant and equipment in accordance with the requirements in IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment*.

BC4B Nevertheless the Board noted that the same argument is not true for the produce growing on the bearer plants that is undergoing biological transformation until it is harvested (for example, grapes growing on a grape vine). The Board observed that the produce is a consumable biological asset growing on the bearer plant and the growth of the produce directly increases the expected revenue from the sale of the produce. Consequently, fair value measurement of the growing produce provides useful information to users of financial statements about future cash flows that an entity is expected to realise. In contrast the bearer plants themselves are not sold and the changes in the fair value of the bearer plants do not directly influence the entity's future cash flows. The Board also observed that produce will ultimately be detached from the bearer plants and is normally sold separately, meaning it has a market value on its own. This is in contrast to many bearer plants that are unlikely to have an observable market value on their own because they can only be sold while attached to the land.

[1] *Agriculture: Bearer Plants* (Amendments to IAS 16 and IAS 41), issued in June 2014, introduced a definition of a bearer plant. The amendments require biological assets meeting the definition of a bearer plant to be accounted for as property, plant and equipment in accordance with IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* and as such the amendments are more comprehensively discussed in paragraphs BC38–BC117 of IAS 16. The produce growing on the bearer plants is within the scope of IAS 41. A summary of the specific changes to IAS 41 are discussed in paragraphs BC4A–BC4E of this Standard.

BC4C The Board acknowledged that measuring produce growing on bearer plants at fair value less costs to sell sometimes might be difficult to apply in practice. However, it was noted that similar difficulties are encountered when measuring the fair value less costs to sell of the produce growing in the ground. Consequently, the Board decided that it would be inconsistent to provide additional relief from fair value measurement for produce growing on a bearer plant and not also for other biological assets within the scope of IAS 41. The Board observed that if preparers encounter significant practical difficulties on initial measurement of produce, they should consider whether they meet the requirements of the exemptions in paragraphs 10(c) and 30 of IAS 41.

BC4D Consequently, the Board decided to reaffirm that produce is a biological asset within the scope of IAS 41 and should be measured at fair value less costs to sell with changes recognised in profit and loss as the produce grows. This would maintain consistency of accounting for produce growing in the ground and produce growing on a bearer plant. Consequently, the Board decided to keep the produce within the scope of IAS 41.

BC4E The Board noted that most of the areas for which respondents asked for additional guidance were specific to a particular type of bearer plant or produce. The Board decided that because of the specialised nature and diversity of bearer plants and produce it would be too difficult for the Board to develop additional guidance on measuring the fair value of produce.

Recognition and measurement

Discount rate (paragraph 20) – 2008 amendments

BC5 As part of the annual improvements project begun in 2007, the Board reconsidered whether it is appropriate to require a pre- tax discount rate in paragraph 20 when measuring fair value.[2] The Board noted that a fair value measurement should take into account the attributes, including tax attributes, that a market participant would consider when pricing an asset or liability.

BC6 The Board noted that a willing buyer would factor into the amount that it would be willing to pay the seller to acquire an asset (or would receive to assume a liability) all incremental cash flows that would benefit that buyer. Those incremental cash flows would be reduced by expected income tax payments using appropriate tax rates (ie the tax rate of a market participant buyer). Accordingly, fair value takes into account future income taxes that a market participant purchasing the asset (or assuming the liability) would be expected to pay (or to receive), without regard to an entity's specific tax situation.[3]

BC7 Therefore, the Board decided to keep the requirement to use a current market- based discount rate but in *Improvements to IFRSs* issued in May 2008 removed the reference to a pre- tax discount rate in paragraph 20.

Additional biological transformation (paragraph 21) – 2008 amendments

BC8 Sometimes the fair value of an asset in its current location and condition is estimated using discounted cash flows. Paragraph 21 could be read to exclude from such calculations increases in cash flows arising from 'additional biological transformation'. Diversity in practice had developed from different interpretations of this requirement. The Board decided that not including these cash flows resulted in a carrying amount that is not representative of the asset's fair value. The Board noted that an entity should consider the risks associated with cash flows from 'additional biological transformation' in determining the expected cash flows, the discount rate, or some combination of the two. Therefore, the Board decided to amend IAS 41 to remove the prohibition on an entity taking into account the cash flows resulting from 'additional biological transformation' when estimating the fair value of a biological asset.[4]

BC9 In its exposure draft of proposed *Improvements to International Financial Reporting Standards* published in 2007, the Board proposed changing the definition of biological transformation to include harvest. This was because the Board wished to make clear that harvest altered the condition of a biological asset. Some commentators objected to this change on the basis that harvest is a human activity rather than a biological transformation. The Board agreed with this argument and decided not to include the harvest in the

2 IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, issued in May 2011, defines fair value and contains the requirements for measuring fair value.

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4 IFRS 13, issued in May 2011, contains the requirements for measuring fair value. As a consequence, paragraph 21 of IAS 41 has been deleted.

definition of biological transformation. Instead, the Board amended the Standard to refer to biological transformation or harvest when applicable to make clear that harvest changes the condition of an asset.

BC10 Because applying the changes discussed in paragraphs BC8 and BC9 retrospectively might require some entities to remeasure the fair value of biological assets at a past date, the Board decided that these amendments should be applied prospectively.

Taxation in Fair Value Measurements – 2020 amendment

BC11 The 2008 amendments removed the requirement for entities to use a pre-tax discount rate to discount cash flows when measuring fair value (see paragraphs BC5–BC7). At that time the Board did not amend paragraph 22 of IAS 41 to delete the reference to cash flows for taxation. Consequently, before *Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018–2020*, IAS 41 had required an entity to use pre-tax cash flows when measuring fair value but did not require the use of a pre-tax discount rate to discount those cash flows.

BC12 In 2020, the Board amended paragraph 22 to remove the requirement to exclude cash flows for taxation when measuring fair value because:

(a) doing so aligns the requirements in IAS 41 on fair value measurement with those in IFRS 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. When measuring fair value, IFRS 13 neither prescribes the use of a single present value technique nor limits the use of present value techniques to only those discussed in that Standard. However, when using a present value technique, paragraph B14 of IFRS 13 requires assumptions about cash flows and discount rates to be internally consistent. Depending on the particular facts and circumstances, an entity applying a present value technique might measure fair value by discounting after-tax cash flows using an after-tax discount rate or pre-tax cash flows at a rate consistent with those cash flows.

(b) it would appear the Board's intention in amending IAS 41 in 2008 was to permit entities to include tax cash flows in measuring fair value (see paragraph BC6). Removing 'taxation' from paragraph 22 is consistent with that intent.

