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**INTERPRETATION OF  
STATUTORY BOARD  
FINANCIAL  
REPORTING STANDARD**

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**INT SB-FRS 117**

**Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners**

This version of the Interpretation of Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standard does not include amendments that are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 January 2013.

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Interpretation of Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standard 117 *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners* (INT SB-FRS 117) is set out in paragraphs 1–20 and the Appendix. INT SB-FRS 117 is accompanied by illustrative examples. The scope and authority of Interpretations are set out in the *Preface to Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standards*.

# Interpretation of Statutory Board Financial Reporting Standard 117

## *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners*

### References

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- SB-FRS 103 *Business Combinations* (as revised in 2009)
- SB-FRS 105 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*
- SB-FRS 107 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*
- SB-FRS 113 *Fair Value Measurement*
- SB-FRS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* (as revised in 2008)
- SB-FRS 10 *Events after the Reporting Period*
- SB-FRS 27 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* (as amended in June 2009)

### Background

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- 1 Sometimes an entity distributes assets other than cash (non-cash assets) as dividends to its owners<sup>1</sup> acting in their capacity as owners. In those situations, an entity may also give its owners a choice of receiving either non-cash assets or a cash alternative. Requests for guidance were received on how an entity should account for such distributions.
- 2 Statutory Boards Financial Reporting Standards (SB-FRSs) do not provide guidance on how an entity should measure distributions to its owners (commonly referred to as dividends). SB-FRS 1 requires an entity to present details of dividends recognised as distributions to owners either in the statement of changes in equity or in the notes to the financial statements.

### Scope

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- 3 This Interpretation applies to the following types of non-reciprocal distributions of assets by an entity to its owners acting in their capacity as owners:
  - (a) distributions of non-cash assets (eg items of property, plant and equipment, businesses as defined in SB-FRS 103, ownership interests in another entity or disposal groups as defined in SB-FRS 105); and
  - (b) distributions that give owners a choice of receiving either non-cash assets or a cash alternative.
- 4 This Interpretation applies only to distributions in which all owners of the same class of equity instruments are treated equally.
- 5 This Interpretation does not apply to a distribution of a non-cash asset that is ultimately controlled by the same party or parties before and after the distribution. This exclusion applies to the separate, individual and consolidated financial statements of an entity that makes the distribution.
- 6 In accordance with paragraph 5, this Interpretation does not apply when the non-cash asset is ultimately controlled by the same parties both before and after the distribution. Paragraph B2 of SB-FRS 103 states that 'A group of individuals shall be regarded as controlling an entity when.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 7 of FRS 1 defines owners as holders of instruments classified as equity.



as a result of contractual arrangements, they collectively have the power to govern its financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from its activities.’ Therefore, for a distribution to be outside the scope of this Interpretation on the basis that the same parties control the asset both before and after the distribution, a group of individual shareholders receiving the distribution must have, as a result of contractual arrangements, such ultimate collective power over the entity making the distribution.

- 7 In accordance with paragraph 5, this Interpretation does not apply when an entity distributes some of its ownership interests in a subsidiary but retains control of the subsidiary. The entity making a distribution that results in the entity recognising a non-controlling interest in its subsidiary accounts for the distribution in accordance with SB-FRS 27 (as amended in 2009).
- 8 This Interpretation addresses only the accounting by an entity that makes a non-cash asset distribution. It does not address the accounting by shareholders who receive such a distribution.

## **Issues**

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- 9 When an entity declares a distribution and has an obligation to distribute the assets concerned to its owners, it must recognise a liability for the dividend payable. Consequently, this Interpretation addresses the following issues:
- (a) When should the entity recognise the dividend payable?
  - (b) How should an entity measure the dividend payable?
  - (c) When an entity settles the dividend payable, how should it account for any difference between the carrying amount of the assets distributed and the carrying amount of the dividend payable?

## **Consensus**

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### **When to recognise a dividend payable**

- 10 The liability to pay a dividend shall be recognised when the dividend is appropriately authorised and is no longer at the discretion of the entity, which is the date:
- (a) when declaration of the dividend, eg by management or the board of directors, is approved by the relevant authority, eg the shareholders, if the jurisdiction requires such approval, or
  - (b) when the dividend is declared, eg by management or the board of directors, if the jurisdiction does not require further approval.

### **Measurement of a dividend payable**

- 11 An entity shall measure a liability to distribute non-cash assets as a dividend to its owners at the fair value of the assets to be distributed.
- 12 If an entity gives its owners a choice of receiving either a non-cash asset or a cash alternative, the entity shall estimate the dividend payable by considering both the fair value of each alternative and the associated probability of owners selecting each alternative.
- 13 At the end of each reporting period and at the date of settlement, the entity shall review and adjust the carrying amount of the dividend payable, with any changes in the carrying amount of the dividend payable recognised in equity as adjustments to the amount of the distribution.

## **Accounting for any difference between the carrying amount of the assets distributed and the carrying amount of the dividend payable when an entity settles the dividend payable**

- 14 When an entity settles the dividend payable, it shall recognise the difference, if any, between the carrying amount of the assets distributed and the carrying amount of the dividend payable in profit or loss.

## **Presentation and disclosures**

- 15 An entity shall present the difference described in paragraph 14 as a separate line item in profit or loss.
- 16 An entity shall disclose the following information, if applicable:
- (a) the carrying amount of the dividend payable at the beginning and end of the period; and
  - (b) the increase or decrease in the carrying amount recognised in the period in accordance with paragraph 13 as result of a change in the fair value of the assets to be distributed.
- 17 If, after the end of a reporting period but before the financial statements are authorised for issue, an entity declares a dividend to distribute a non-cash asset, it shall disclose:
- (a) the nature of the asset to be distributed;
  - (b) the carrying amount of the asset to be distributed as of the end of the reporting period; and
  - (c) the fair value of the asset to be distributed as of the end of the reporting period, if it is different from its carrying amount, and the information about the method(s) used to measure that fair value required by paragraphs 93(b), (d), (g) and (i) and 99 of SB-FRS 113.

## **Effective date**

- 18 An entity shall apply this Interpretation prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009. Retrospective application is not permitted. Earlier application is permitted. If an entity applies this Interpretation for a period beginning before 1 July 2009, it shall disclose that fact and also apply SB-FRS 103 (as revised in 2009), SB-FRS 27 (as amended in June 2009) and SB-FRS 105 (as amended by this Interpretation).
- 19 [Not used]
- 20 SB-FRS 113, issued in January 2012, amended paragraph 17. An entity shall apply that amendment when it applies SB-FRS 113.

**Appendix**  
**Amendments to SB-FRS 105 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations* and SB-FRS 10 *Events after the Reporting Period***

*The amendments contained in this appendix when this Interpretation was issued in 2009 have been incorporated into SB-FRS 105 and SB-FRS 10 as published in this volume.*