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Introduction

The text of this Briefing summarises, at a high level and in non-technical language, the main principles in the International Accounting Standards Board's Standards that are required for annual reporting periods beginning on 1 January 2015 assuming no Standards are early applied. In addition, the Appendix contains summaries of Standards that have a later effective date; these can be applied early if wished. Standards published after 30 June 2015 are not summarised in this Briefing or its Appendix.

The summaries

These concise and easy to use summaries are prepared by the IFRS Foundation education staff for Chief Executives, members of Audit Committees, Boards of Directors and others who want a broad overview of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The summaries have not been reviewed or approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

This Briefing is not intended to address all aspects of each Standard; only the more common or significant matters encountered in application and practice. For the full requirements of IFRS, reference must be made to the Standards issued by the IASB.

Financial reporting, like many things, is not always black and white. Entities present a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for their financial period and a statement of financial position as at the end of that period and this can give an appearance of precision, for example, because the statements show one total for comprehensive income for the period. However, underlying the preparation of the statements will be many judgements and estimates. For this reason, we highlight in this publication some of the key judgements and estimates that will be required when applying each Standard.

Each summary is self-contained and the summaries have been presented in numerical order. However, to gain an overview of the preparation of general purpose financial statements, a reader might wish to start by reading the summaries on the *Conceptual Framework*, IAS 1, IAS 7, IAS 8 and IAS 10.

IFRS

The objective of the IFRS Foundation is to develop, in the public interest, a single set of high quality, understandable, enforceable and globally accepted financial reporting Standards based upon clearly articulated principles.

The IASB is the standard-setting operation of the IFRS Foundation. The IASB is selected, overseen and funded by the IFRS Foundation, and the IASB has complete responsibility for all IASB technical matters including the preparation and issuing of Standards.

The Standards specify the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements in general purpose financial statements. The *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* provides the concepts from which principle-based Standards are developed.

The Standards are mandatory pronouncements and comprise International Financial Reporting Standards and Interpretations developed by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (formerly called the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC)) and the former Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC).

In July 2009 the IASB published the *International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SMEs)*. This Standard is intended to apply to entities that in many countries are referred to by a variety of terms, including small and medium-sized entities, private entities and non-publicly accountable entities. In May 2015 the IASB issued amendments to the *IFRS for SMEs* which are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017.