

IFRS NEWS

DEFINITION OF ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES (AMENDMENTS TO IAS 8)

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Introduction



Reason: It difficult to distinguish between a change in accounting policy and a change in accounting estimate, especially when it relates to a change in a measurement method. This distinction is important because changes in accounting estimates often affect an entity's profit or loss, but changes in accounting policies generally do not.



Impact: The amendments applied to distinguish between accounting policies and accounting estimates



Effective date: The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2023. Earlier application is permitted.



Amendments

Content	Before	After
Definition	The current version of IAS 8 does not provide a definition of accounting estimates.	Accounting estimates are now defined as, "monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty" and replaced the definition of a change in accounting estimates.
The interaction between accounting estimates and accounting policies (IAS 8.32)	N/a	"An accounting policy may require such items to be measured at monetary amounts that cannot be observed directly and must instead be estimated. In such cases, an entity develops an accounting estimate to achieve the objective set out by the accounting policy".

Description

- The amended standard explains how entities use measurement techniques and inputs to develop accounting estimates and states that these can include estimation and valuation techniques.
- Although the definition of a change in accounting estimate has been replaced, the standard still explains that changes in accounting estimates arise when changes in the circumstances on which the accounting estimate was based occur or because of new information, new developments or more experience. By its nature, a change in an accounting estimate does not relate to prior periods and is not a correction of an error.



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