
**SINGAPORE FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS
(INTERNATIONAL)**

**SFRS(I) INT 17
Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners**

This Interpretation is applicable for annual reporting period beginning on
1 January 2023.

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SFRS(I) INT 17

SFRS(I) Interpretation 17 *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners* (SFRS(I) INT 17) is set out in paragraphs 1–20 and the Appendix. SFRS(I) INT 17 is accompanied by illustrative examples, and should be read in the context of the Basis for Conclusions on International Financial Reporting Standards. The scope and authority of Interpretations are set out in the *Preface to Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International)*.

Preface

Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International) (SFRS(I)s) are available for entities to apply for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

The first volume of SFRS(I)s contains the equivalent of the consolidated text of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) at 31 December 2017 that are applicable for annual reporting period beginning on 1 January 2018.

In this Interpretation, paragraphs with a prefix 'IFRS' refer to effective date, transition provisions and/or other text that are extracted from IFRSs. An entity that is not a first-time adopter shall apply those requirements, if applicable¹. Paragraphs that are specific to SFRS(I)s are indicated with a prefix 'SG'.

Notwithstanding the effective date and transition provisions in this Interpretation, an entity that is a first-time adopter of SFRS(I)s² shall:

- (A) Initially apply this Interpretation in the first annual period in which it adopts SFRS(I)s; and
- (B) Apply SFRS(I) 1 *First-time Adoption of Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International)* in its first SFRS(I) financial statements. The entity shall also apply SFRS(I) 1 in each interim financial report that it presents in accordance with SFRS(I) 1-34 *Interim Financial Reporting* for any part of the period covered by its first SFRS(I) financial statements.

SFRS(I) INT 17 *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners* is equivalent to IFRIC 17 *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners*. An entity that complies with SFRS(I) INT 17 can simultaneously comply with IFRIC 17.

1 For example, SFRS(I) 1 *First-time Adoption of Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International)* specifies that the transitional provisions in SFRS(I)s apply to a transitioning entity's transition to SFRS(I)s. SFRS(I) 1 defines a 'transitioning entity' as an entity that presents its first SFRS(I) financial statements, and that presented its annual financial statements in the most recent previous year that contained an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with IFRSs.

2 SFRS(I) 1 *First-time Adoption of Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International)* defines a 'first-time adopter' as an entity that presents its first SFRS(I) financial statements. A first-time adopter excludes a transitioning entity.

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Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners

References

- SFRS(I) 3 *Business Combinations*
- SFRS(I) 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*
- SFRS(I) 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*
- SFRS(I) 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements*
- SFRS(I) 13 *Fair Value Measurement*
- SFRS(I) 1-1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*
- SFRS(I) 1-10 *Events after the Reporting Period*

Background

- 1 Sometimes an entity distributes assets other than cash (non-cash assets) as dividends to its owners¹ 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 Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International) (SFRS(I)s) do not provide guidance on how an entity should measure distributions to its owners (commonly referred to as dividends). SFRS(I) 1-1 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

- 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 SFRS(I) 3, ownership interests in another entity or disposal groups as defined in SFRS(I) 5); 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.

¹ Paragraph 7 of SFRS(I) 1-1 defines owners as holders of instruments classified as equity.

- 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 SFRS(I) 3 states that 'A group of individuals shall be regarded as controlling an entity when, 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 SFRS(I) 10.
- 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

- 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

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 SFRS(I) 13.

Effective date

- IFRS. 18 An entity shall apply [IFRIC 17 *Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners* (issued by IASB in November 2008)] 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 IFRS 3 (as revised in 2008), IAS 27 (as amended in May 2008) and IFRS 5 (as amended by this Interpretation).
- IFRS. 19 IFRS 10, issued in May 2011, amended paragraph 7. An entity shall apply that amendment when it applies IFRS 10.
- IFRS. 20 IFRS 13, issued in May 2011, amended paragraph 17. An entity shall apply that amendment when it applies IFRS 13.

Appendix
Amendments to other SFRS(I)s

The amendments contained in this appendix have been incorporated into the relevant SFRS(I)s.