



EFRAG DRAFT ENDORSEMENT ADVICE FOR ANNUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO IFRS STANDARDS 2018-2020

Issued 8 September 2020

ICAEW welcomes the opportunity to comment on EFRAG's draft endorsement advice for the Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020, published in June 2020, a copy of which is available from this [link](#).

This response of 8 September 2020 has been prepared by the ICAEW Financial Reporting Faculty. Recognised internationally as a leading authority on financial reporting, the Faculty, through its Financial Reporting Committee, is responsible for formulating ICAEW policy on financial reporting issues and makes submissions to standard setters and other external bodies on behalf of ICAEW. The Faculty provides an extensive range of services to its members including providing practical assistance with common financial reporting problems.

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KEY POINTS

1. ICAEW welcomes the opportunity to comment on EFRAG's draft endorsement advice for the Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020, published in June 2020, a copy of which is available from this [link](#). This response of 8 September 2020, reproduced in the appendix below, has been prepared on behalf of ICAEW by the Financial Reporting Faculty.
2. ICAEW supports the endorsement of the IASB's Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020, for application in the EU.



INVITATION TO COMMENT ON EFRAG'S ASSESSMENTS ON Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020

Once filled in, this form should be submitted by 7 September 2020 using the 'Comment publication link' available at the bottom of the respective news item. All open consultations can be found on EFRAG's web site: [Open consultations: express your views](#).

EFRAG has been asked by the European Commission to provide it with advice and supporting material on *Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020* ('the Amendments'). In order to do so, EFRAG has been carrying out an assessment of the Amendments against the technical criteria for endorsement set out in Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 and has also been assessing the costs and benefits that would arise from their implementation in the European Union (the EU) and European Economic Area.

A summary of the Amendments is set out in Appendix 1 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments.

Note to constituents

Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018-2020 includes an amendment to IFRS 16 *Leases*, which have not been endorsed in the EU. This consequential amendment is not addressed in this Draft Endorsement Advice as Regulation (EC) No 2017/1986 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of International Accounting Standards is limited to the main text of the standards - as well as Appendix A (defined terms), Appendix B (application guide), Appendix C (transition) and Appendix D (amendments to other standards).

Before finalising its assessment, EFRAG would welcome your views on the issues set out below. Please note that all responses received will be placed on the public record, unless the respondent requests confidentiality. In the interests of transparency, EFRAG will wish to discuss the responses it receives in a public meeting, so it is preferable that all responses can be published.

EFRAG's initial assessments, summarised in this questionnaire, will be updated for comments received from constituents when EFRAG is in the process of finalising its *Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments.

YOUR DETAILS

1 Please provide the following details:

- (a) Your name or, if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or company, its name:

Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW)

- (b) Are you a:

Preparer User Other (please specify)

Professional body

- (c) Please provide a short description of your activity:

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- (d) Country where you are located:

United Kingdom

- (e) Contact details, including e-mail address:

Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London, EC2R 6EA UK,
T +44 (0)20 7920 8100
sarah.dunn@icaew.com

EFRAG'S INITIAL ASSESSMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR ENDORSEMENT

- 2 EFRAG's initial assessment of the Amendments is that they meet the technical criteria for endorsement. In other words, the Amendments are not contrary to the principle of true and fair view and meet the criteria of understandability, relevance, reliability, comparability and lead to prudent accounting. EFRAG's reasoning is set out in Appendix 2 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments.

- (a) Do you agree with this assessment? **Yes**

If you do not agree, please provide your arguments and what you believe the implications of this could be for EFRAG's endorsement advice.

- (b) Are there any issues that are not mentioned in Appendix 2 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments that you believe EFRAG should take into account in its technical evaluation of the Amendment? If there are, what are those issues and why do you believe they are relevant to the evaluation?

No

THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC GOOD

- 3 In its assessment of the impact of the Amendments on the European public good, EFRAG has considered a number of issues that are addressed in Appendix 3 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments.

Improvement in financial reporting

- 4 EFRAG has identified that in assessing whether the endorsement of the Amendments is conducive to the European public good it should consider whether the Amendments are an improvement over current requirements across the areas which have been subject to changes (see paragraphs 3 to 4 of Appendix 3 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission*). To summarise, EFRAG's initial assessment is that the Amendments are likely to improve the quality of financial reporting.

Do you agree with the assessment? **Yes**

If you do not agree, please provide your arguments and indicate how this could affect EFRAG's endorsement advice.

Costs and benefits

- 5 EFRAG is also assessing the costs that are likely to arise for preparers and for users on implementation of the Amendments in the EU, both in year one and in subsequent years. Some initial work has been carried out, and the responses to this invitation to comment will be used to complete the assessment.

The results of the initial assessment of costs are set out in paragraphs 6 to 10 of Appendix 3 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments. To summarise, EFRAG's initial assessment is that the application of the Amendments result in cost savings that will outweigh any incremental costs incurred by users to incorporate the new requirements in their analysis as reported in Appendix 3.

Do you agree with this assessment? **Yes**

If you do not, please explain why you do not and (if possible) explain broadly what you believe the costs involved will be?

- 6 In addition, EFRAG is assessing the benefits that are likely to be derived from the Amendments. The results of the initial assessment of benefits are set out in paragraph 11 to 12 of Appendix 3 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission* regarding endorsement of the Amendments. To summarise, EFRAG's initial assessment is that is that users are likely to benefit from the Amendments, as the information resulting from it will remove inconsistency and increase comparability between entities and therefore will enhance their analysis as reported in Appendix 3.

Do you agree with this assessment? **Yes**

If you do not agree with this assessment, please provide your arguments and indicate how this could affect EFRAG's endorsement advice.

- 7 EFRAG's initial assessment is that the benefits to be derived from implementing the Amendments in the EU, as described in paragraph 6 above, are likely to outweigh the costs involved, as described in paragraph 5 above.

Do you agree with this assessment? **Yes**

If you do not agree with this assessment, please provide your arguments and indicate how this could affect EFRAG's endorsement advice.

Overall assessment with respect to the European public good

- 8 EFRAG has initially concluded that endorsement of the Amendments would be conducive to the European public good (see paragraphs 14 to 17 of Appendix 3 of the accompanying *Draft Letter to the European Commission*).

Do you agree with this conclusion? **Yes**

If you do not agree, please explain your reasons.