



# IFRS Alert

## Amendments to IAS 12

Issue 2016-02

### *Executive Summary*

The IASB has issued 'Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses' which makes narrow-scope amendments to IAS 12 'Income Taxes' (the Amendments).

The focus of the Amendments is to clarify how to account for deferred tax assets related to debt instruments measured at fair value, particularly where changes in the market interest rate decrease the fair value of a debt instrument below cost.

### Background

The IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) was originally asked to clarify a number of issues surrounding the recognition of deferred tax assets related to debt instruments measured at fair value. The IFRIC referred the issue to the IASB, leading to an Exposure Draft being issued in August 2015 and now the final Amendments.

### Matters addressed

The Amendments add guidance to the Standard in the following areas where diversity in practice previously existed:

Topic	Issue	Clarification
<b>Existence of a deductible temporary difference</b>	Do decreases in the carrying amount of a fixed-rate debt instrument for which the principal is paid on maturity always give rise to a deductible temporary difference if the debt instrument is measured at fair value and if its tax base remains at cost	The existence of a deductible temporary difference depends solely on a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset and its tax base at the end of the reporting period, and is not affected by possible future changes in the carrying amount. Consequently, decreases below cost in the carrying amount of a fixed-rate debt instrument measured at fair value for which the tax base remains at cost give rise to a deductible temporary difference.
<b>Recovering an asset for more than its carrying amount</b>	Should an entity assume that it will recover an asset for more than its carrying amount when estimating probable future taxable profit against which deductible temporary differences are assessed for utilisation if such recovery is probable (relevant when taxable profit from other sources is insufficient for the utilisation of the deductible temporary differences related to debt instruments measured at fair value)	The estimate of probable future taxable profit may include the recovery of some of an entity's assets for more than their carrying amount if there is sufficient evidence that it is probable that the entity will achieve this.

Topic	Issue	Clarification
<b>Probable future taxable profit against which deductible temporary differences are assessed for utilisation</b>	When an entity assesses whether it can utilise a deductible temporary difference against probable future taxable profit, does that probable future taxable profit include the effects of reversing deductible temporary differences	Deductible temporary differences are utilised by deduction against taxable profit, excluding deductions arising from reversal of those deductible temporary differences.  Consequently, taxable profit used for assessing the utilisation of deductible temporary differences is different from taxable profit on which income taxes are payable. If those deductions were not excluded, then they would be counted twice.
<b>Combined versus separate assessment</b>	Should an entity assess whether a deferred tax asset is recognised for each deductible temporary difference separately, or in combination with other deductible temporary differences.	The Amendments clarify that an entity should consider whether tax law restricts the sources of taxable profits against which it may make deductions on the reversal of the deductible temporary difference. If tax law imposes no such restrictions, an entity assesses a deductible temporary difference in combination with all of its other deductible temporary differences.

## Effective date

The Amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017. Earlier application is permitted.

## Transition

The Amendments are to be applied retrospectively. However they allow the change in opening equity of the earliest comparative period presented, that arises from applying the Amendments for the first time, to be recognised in opening retained earnings without the need to allocate the change between opening retained earnings and other components of equity.

## Contact

**Stephen Murray**  
Partner, Corporate Audit  
E [stephen.murray@ie.gt.com](mailto:stephen.murray@ie.gt.com)  
T +353 (0)1 680 5689

**Fergus Condon**  
Partner, Financial Accounting  
and Advisory Services  
E [fergus.condon@ie.gt.com](mailto:fergus.condon@ie.gt.com)  
T +353 (0)1 680 5610

**Louise Kelly**  
Partner, Audit  
E [louise.kelly@ie.gt.com](mailto:louise.kelly@ie.gt.com)  
T +44 (0)28 9587 1100

Click [here](#) to subscribe to future thought leadership publications.



© 2016 Grant Thornton International Ltd.

IFRS Alerts are developed as an information resource summarising new pronouncements issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and the IFRS Interpretations Committee. This document is intended as a guide only and the application of its contents to specific situations will depend on the particular circumstances involved. While every care has been taken in its presentation, personnel who use this document to assist in evaluating compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards should have sufficient training and experience to do so. No person should act specifically on the basis of the material contained herein without considering and taking professional advice. Neither Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL), nor any of its personnel nor any of its member firms or their partners or employees, accept any responsibility for any errors this document might contain, whether caused by negligence or otherwise, or any loss, howsoever caused, incurred by any person as a result of utilising or otherwise placing any reliance upon it.

"Grant Thornton" refers to the brand under which the Grant Thornton member firms provide assurance, tax and advisory services to their clients and/or refers to one or more member firms, as the context requires. GTIL and the member firms are not a worldwide partnership. GTIL and each member firm is a separate legal entity. Services are delivered by the member firms. GTIL does not provide services to clients. GTIL and its member firms are not agents of, and do not obligate, one another and are not liable for one another's acts or omissions.