IFRS AT A GLANCE

IAS 28 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures*

BDO

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Effective Date
Periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013

SCOPE

Applies to all entities that are investors with joint control of, or significant influence over, an investee.

DEFINITIONS

Associate
An entity over which the investor has significant influence.

Significant influence
Power to participate in financial and operating policy decisions of the investee.
But not control or joint control over those policies.

Joint arrangement
Arrangement of which two or more parties have joint control.

Joint control
The contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement - decisions require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

Joint venture
A joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

The **equity method** is a method of accounting:
- That initially recognises an investment in an investee at cost
- Thereafter adjusts the investment for the post-acquisition change in the investor's share of net assets of the investee (IAS 28.2)
- The profit or loss of the investor includes the investor's share of the profit or loss of the investee.

Refer to IFRS 10 appendix A, for definitions of:
- Control
- Group
- Parent
- Separate financial statements
- Subsidiary.

APPLICATION

SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE

- Rebuttable presumption: 20% - 50% shareholding gives rise to significant influence
- Evidenced in one or more of the following ways:
  - Representation on the board of directors or equivalent governing body of the investee
  - Participation in policy-making processes, including participation in decisions about dividends or other distributions
  - Material transactions between the investor and the investee
  - Interchange of managerial personnel
  - Provision of essential technical information.

EXEMPTION FROM EQUITY METHOD

1. If the entity is a parent that is exempt from preparing consolidated financial statements, as set out in IFRS 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements* paragraph 4(a); or
2. If all of the following apply:
   - The investor is a wholly owned subsidiary and its owners have been informed about the decision
   - The investor's debt or equity instruments are not publicly traded
   - The investor did not file its financial statements with a securities commission or other regulator for the purposes of issuing its shares to the public
   - The ultimate or intermediate parent of the investor produces consolidated financial statements that comply with IFRSs.
3. The investments are held by venture capital organisations, mutual funds, unit trusts and similar entities for which the investor elects to account for at fair value through profit or loss.

DISCLOSURES

The disclosure requirements for Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures are provided in IFRS 12 *Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities.*

EQUITY METHOD

- The investment is initially recognised at cost
- Subsequently, the carrying amount is increased or decreased to recognise the investor's share of the profit or loss of the investee after the date of acquisition (IAS 28.10):
  - The investor's share of the profit or loss of the investee is recognised in the investor's profit or loss
  - Distributions received from an investee reduce the carrying amount of the investment
  - Adjustments to the carrying amount may also arise from changes in the investee's other comprehensive income (OCI) (i.e. revaluation of property, plant and equipment and foreign exchange translation differences. The investr's share of those changes is recognised in OCI of the investor
  - An investment or a portion of an investment in an investee that meets the definition of a 'non-current asset held for sale' should be recognised in accordance with IFRS 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations.*
- The equity method is used from the date significant influence arises, to the date significant influence ceases.

IMPAIRMENT LOSSES

- Goodwill that forms part of the carrying amount of an investment in an investee is not separately recognised and therefore not tested separately for impairment - instead the entire investment is tested as 'one' in accordance with IAS 36.

SEPARATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An investment in an investee is required to be accounted for in the entity's separate financial statements either at cost or at fair value in accordance with IFRS 9.

ISSUES TO NOTE

- Potential voting rights that are currently exercisable are taken into account to determine whether significant influence exists, but equity accounting is based on actual interest only
- Financial statements of the investor and investee used must not differ by more than 3 months in terms of the reporting date
- The investors' share in the investee's profits and losses resulting from transactions with the investee are eliminated in the equity accounted financial statements of the parent
- Use uniform accounting policies for like transactions and other events in similar circumstances
- If an investor's share of losses of an investee exceeds its interest in the investee, discontinue recognising share of further losses. The interest in an investee is the carrying amount of the investment in the investee under the equity method, and any long-term interests that, in substance, form part of the investor's net investment in the investee. (an item for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur in the foreseeable future is, in substance, an extension of the entity's investment in that investee) after first applying the requirement of IFRS 9 to these long term interests
- If ownership interest is reduced, but equity method remains, the entity reclassifies to profit or loss a proportion gain or loss that had previously been recognised in OCI.

DISCONTINUING THE USE OF THE EQUITY METHOD

An entity is required to discontinue the use of the equity method from the date when its investment ceases to be an associate or a joint venture as follows:
- If an investment becomes a subsidiary, the entity follows the guidance in IFRS 3 *Business Combinations* and IFRS 10
- If any retained investment is held as a financial asset, the entity applies IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*, and recognise in profit or loss the difference between:
  - The fair value of any retained interest and any proceeds from disposing of a part interest in the associate or joint venture
  - The carrying amount of investment at date equity method discontinued.
- Account for all amounts recognised in OCI in relation to that investment on same basis as if investee had directly disposed of related assets and liabilities.

Contact

For further information about how BDO can assist you and your organisation, please get in touch with one of our key contacts listed below.

Alternatively, please visit www.bdo.global where you can find full lists of regional and country contacts.

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