



IFRS Adviser Alert

Insights into IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets*

March 2023

Executive summary

The Grant Thornton International IFRS team has issued the final two publications in the *Insights into IAS 36* series:

- *Presentation and disclosure;*
- *Other impairment issues.*

IAS 36 *Impairment of Assets* is not a new standard and, while many of its requirements are familiar, an impairment review of assets (either tangible or intangible) is frequently challenging to apply in practice. This is because IAS 36's guidance is detailed, prescriptive and complex in some areas.

The *Insights into IAS 36* series has been written to assist preparers of financial statements and those charged with the governance of reporting entities to understand the requirements set out in IAS 36 and revisit some areas where confusion has been seen in practice.

The final two publications in the *Insights into IAS 36* series cover disclosure requirements when an entity recognizes an impairment loss and/or reversal during the reporting period and considerations for some regularly encountered issues when applying the standard:

- *Presentation and disclosure;*
- *Other impairment issues.*

Resource

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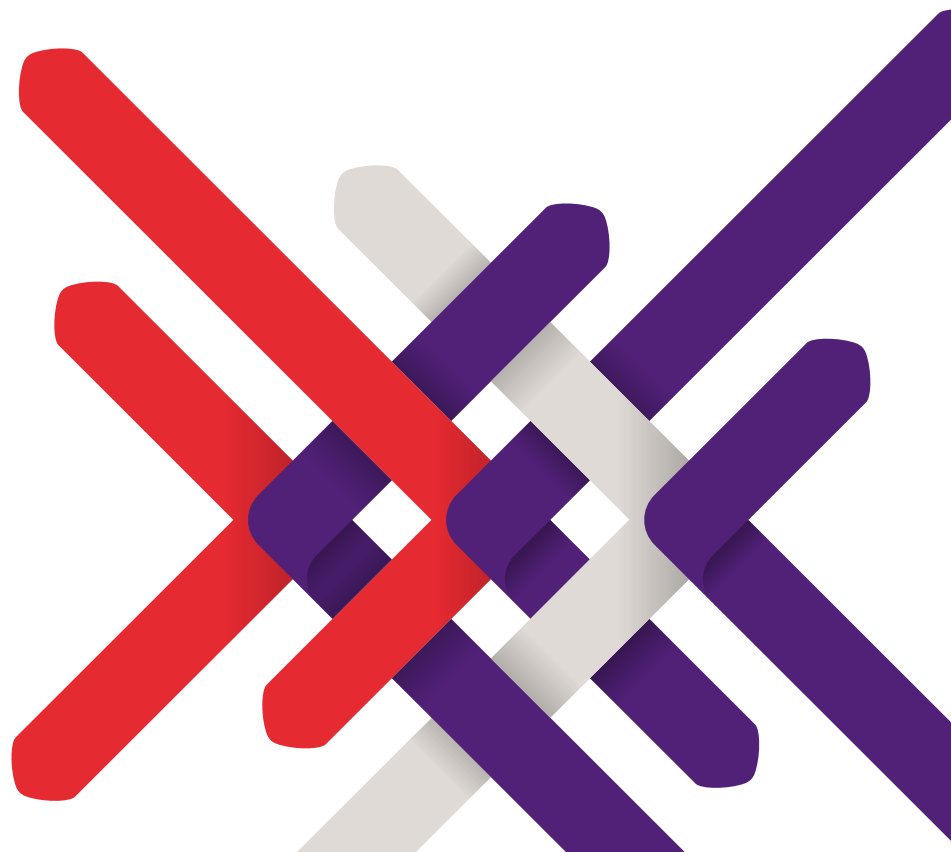
Insights into IAS 36

Presentation and disclosure

Although IAS 36 ‘Impairment of Assets’ is not a new Standard, and many of its requirements are familiar, IAS 36’s guidance is detailed, prescriptive and complex in some areas. Given this, it is often challenging to apply in practice.

The articles in our ‘Insights into IAS 36’ series have been written to assist preparers of financial statements and those charged with the governance of reporting entities understand many of the requirements set out in IAS 36, and re-visit some areas where confusion has been seen in practice.

This article provides a summary of the IAS 36 disclosure requirements and highlights particular areas of focus for regulators, including select illustrative examples for these areas of focus.



Summary of IAS 36 disclosure requirements

IAS 36 prescribes the disclosure requirements when an entity recognises an impairment loss and/or reversal during the reporting period. IAS 36 also requires the disclosure of information used in estimating the recoverable amount where goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets have been allocated to a cash-generating unit (CGU) (or group of CGUs) for impairment review purposes (whether or not any impairment loss or reversal was recognised). In the rest of this article we refer to CGU and this refers to either a singular CGU or a group of CGUs.

The first table summarises the ‘categories’ of disclosure requirements outlined in IAS 36 while the second table summarises the detailed disclosure requirements for each category. For the purposes of the second table, ‘key assumptions’ are those to which the asset’s (or CGU’s) recoverable amount is the most sensitive.

IAS 36 disclosure categories

Section below	Category
1	For each class of assets
2	When a material impairment loss has been recognised or reversed during the period
3	Where goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets allocated to a CGU is significant in comparison with the entity’s total carrying amount of each
4	Where goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets is allocated across multiple CGUs and the amount allocated is not significant in comparison with the entity’s total carrying amount of each
5	Other

Summary of disclosure requirements of IAS 36

Section 1: For each class of assets

IAS 36 disclosure area	Required disclosures
Impairment losses or reversals recognised in profit or loss during the period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amount of impairment losses recognised in profit or loss during the period line item(s) of the statement of comprehensive income within which the impairment loss was recognised amount of reversals of impairment losses recognised in profit or loss during the period line item(s) of the statement of comprehensive income within which the impairment loss was reversed
Impairment losses or reversals on revalued assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amount of impairment losses on revalued assets recognised in OCI during the period amount of reversals of impairment losses on revalued assets recognised in OCI during the period
If segment information is disclosed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> amount of impairment losses and reversals of impairment losses recognised in profit or loss and OCI during the period for each reportable segment

Section 2: When a material impairment loss has been recognised or reversed during the period

IAS 36 disclosure area	Required disclosures
For each individual asset (including goodwill or a CGU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • events and circumstances that led to the recognition or reversal of the impairment loss • amount of the impairment loss recognised or reversed • recoverable amount of the asset or CGU (see guidance note below) • whether the recoverable amount of the asset or CGU is fair value less costs of disposal (FVLCO) or value in use (VIU)
For individual assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nature of the assets • asset's reportable segment if the entity reports segment information
For a CGU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of the CGU • amount of the impairment loss recognised or reversed by class of assets and by reportable segment (if the entity reports segment information) • description of the current and former way of aggregating assets and the reasons for changing the way the CGU is identified, if changed since the previous estimate of the CGU's recoverable amount
If recoverable amount is FVLCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of the fair value hierarchy (see IFRS 13 'Fair Value Measurement') within which the fair value of the asset or CGU is categorised in its entirety (without taking into account whether the 'costs of disposal' are observable) • for fair value measurements categorised within Level 2 and Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a description of the valuation technique(s) used to measure FVLCO – a change in valuation technique and the reason(s) for making such change, if applicable – each key assumption on which management has based its determination of FVLCO – discount rate(s) used in the current and previous measurement if FVLCO is measured using a present value technique
If recoverable amount is VIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discount rate(s) used in the current and previous estimate (if any) of VIU
Where an entity does not disclose information above in accordance with IAS 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For aggregate impairment losses and reversals recognised during the period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – main classes of assets affected by the impairment losses and reversals – main events and circumstances that led to the recognition of these impairment losses and reversals

Section 3: Where goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets allocated to a CGU is significant in comparison with the entity's total carrying amount of each

IAS 36 disclosure area	Required disclosures
<p>General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carrying amount of goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets allocated to the CGU (or group of CGUs) • basis on which recoverable amount was determined for the group (FVLCOB or VIU) • if a reasonably possible change in a key assumption on which management has based its determination of the CGU's recoverable amount would cause the carrying amount to exceed its recoverable amount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – amount by which the CGU's recoverable amount exceeds its carrying amount – value assigned to the key assumption – amount by which the value assigned to the key assumption must change in order for the CGU's recoverable amount to be equal to its carrying amount (after incorporating any consequential effects of that change on the other variables used to measure recoverable amount)
<p>Where recoverable amount is based on VIU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • each key assumption on which management has based its cash flow projections for the period covered by the most recent budgets/forecasts • a description of management's approach to determining the value(s) assigned to each key assumption • whether those value(s) reflect past experience or are consistent with external sources of information (if applicable) and, if not, how and why they differ from past experience or external sources of information • period over which management has projected cash flows based on financial budgets/forecasts approved by management • explanation of why a longer period is justified where a period greater than five years is used • growth rate used to extrapolate cash flows projections beyond the period covered by the most recent budgets/forecasts • where the growth rate used to extrapolate cash flow projections exceeds the long-term average growth rate for the products, industries, or country or countries in which the entity operates, or the market to which the CGU is dedicated, the justification for using such growth rate • discount rate(s) applied to the cash flow projections
<p>Where the recoverable amount is based on FVLCOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valuation technique(s) used to measure FVLCOB (Entities follow disclosure requirements in IAS 36 instead of IFRS 13 when using FVLCOB (scope exception in IFRS 13)) • where FVLCOB is not measured using a quoted price for an identical unit (or group of units): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – each key assumption on which management has based its determination of fair value less cost of disposal – description of management's approach to determining the value (or values) assigned to each key assumption – whether those value(s) reflect past experience or are consistent with external sources of information (if applicable) and, if not, how and why they differ from past experience or external sources of information – level of the fair value hierarchy (see IFRS 13) within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety (without giving regard to the observability of 'costs of disposal') – where there has been a change in valuation technique, the reason(s) for the change • where FVLCOB is measured using discounted cash flow projections, an entity shall disclose the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the period over which management has projected cash flows – the growth rate used to extrapolate cash flow projections – the discount rate(s) applied to the cash flow projections

Section 4: Where goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets is allocated across multiple CGUs and the amount allocated is not significant in comparison with the entity's total carrying amount of each

IAS 36 disclosure area	Required disclosures
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclose that fact aggregate carrying amount of the goodwill or indefinite life intangible assets allocated to those units
Where recoverable amounts of any of the CGUs are based on the same key assumption(s) and the aggregate carrying amount of goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets allocated to them is significant in comparison with the entity's total carrying amount of each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclose that fact aggregate carrying amount of goodwill allocated to those CGUs aggregate carrying amount of indefinite-life intangible assets allocated to those CGUs description of management's approach to determining the value assigned to each key assumption whether those value(s) reflect past experience or are consistent with external sources of information (if applicable) and, if not, how and why they differ from past experience or external sources of information if a reasonably possible change in key assumptions would cause the aggregate of the CGUs' carrying amounts to exceed the aggregate of their recoverable amounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the amount by which the aggregate of the CGUs' recoverable amount exceeds the aggregate of their carrying amounts the value(s) assigned to the key assumption(s) amount by which the value assigned to the key assumptions much change in order for the aggregate of the CGUs' recoverable amount to be equal to the aggregate of their carrying amounts (after incorporating any consequential effects of that change on the other variables used to measure recoverable amount)

Section 5: Other

IAS 36 disclosure area	Required (or encouraged where noted) disclosures
For all assets or CGUs where the entity has estimated recoverable amount	Assumptions used to determine the recoverable amount of assets (and CGUs) during the period This disclosure is encouraged, not required, in the case outlined, but this disclosure is required where estimates to measure the recoverable amount of a CGU contains goodwill or indefinite-life intangible assets.
Where any portion of goodwill acquired in a business combination during the period has not been allocated to a CGU at the end of the reporting period	Amount of the unallocated goodwill, together with the reasons why that amount remains unallocated
Where the preceding period's recoverable amount calculation of a CGU is carried forward in accordance with IAS 36	Information required by IAS 36 using the information related to the carried forward calculation of the recoverable amount.

Application issues (as noted by regulators)

In recent years, regulators around the world have focused on the IAS 36 disclosure requirements, noting areas where financial statements filed with the various regulators ‘fall short’ in their view. The below table highlights areas of consistent focus by regulators, including common criticism by area of focus, including the following:

Common IAS 36 disclosure criticisms as noted by regulators

IAS 36 disclosure requirement	Criticism by regulators	Illustrative example
<p>Explanation of the events and circumstances that contributed to the impairment loss or reversal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclosures were too broad and did not provide entity-specific factors of the main events and circumstances that resulted in the impairment 	<p>Example 1</p>
<p>Description of the entity’s CGU when it recognises or reverses an impairment loss for the CGU during the period</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclosures did not provide a description of the CGU or such description lacked substance and/or entity-specific information; therefore, financial statement users did not have sufficient context regarding the impact of the impairment on the overall activities and operations of the entity 	<p>Example 2</p>
<p>Explanation of the basis of key assumptions and the valuation approach used to determine the recoverable amount</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclosures did not always discuss key assumptions and for those that did, many did not contain sufficient detail that would provide meaningful information to investors key assumptions incorporate more than the discount rate and growth rate, consistent with Illustrative Example 9 in IAS 36 (eg gross margin, government bond rates, exchange rate for the period, raw material price inflation, market share, etc.) comparative information is required 	<p>Example 3</p>
<p>Where goodwill or indefinite life intangibles have been allocated to a CGU, but no impairment has been recognised, reasonably possible changes in assumptions if such changes would cause the unit’s carrying amount to exceed its recoverable amount</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> disclosures did not always contain a sensitivity analysis and for those that did, there was a lack in consistency of the analyses provided where equity book value exceeds market capitalisation, some regulators would expect to see a transparent sensitivity analysis sensitivity analyses should incorporate all key assumptions (beyond discount rate and growth rate) 	<p>Example 4</p>

Select illustrative examples

Here we illustrate the areas of common criticism by regulators as highlighted in the table above.

It is not intended to illustrate all of the required disclosures in all circumstances. The form and content of the disclosures will depend on the specific facts and circumstances surrounding each entity's impairment review. Accordingly, these illustrative disclosures should be amended, amplified or abbreviated to reflect such specific circumstances.

The illustrative disclosures presented below are excerpts from the 31 December 20X3 consolidated financial statements of a fictional company: Illustrative Corporation and subsidiaries (the Group). The Group provides consulting on IT and telecommunications systems, in addition to online sales of hardware and software products of the Group's business partners. Select disclosures for the Group are as follows:

Example disclosures	Topic
1	Explanation of the events and circumstances that contributed to the impairment loss or reversal
2	Description of the entity's CGU when it recognises or reverses an impairment loss for the CGU during the period
3	Explanation of the basis of key assumptions and the valuation approach used to determine the recoverable amount
4	Reasonably possible changes in assumptions

Example 1: Explanation of the events and circumstances that contributed to the impairment loss

IAS 36.130(a) The Group considers both qualitative and quantitative factors when determining whether an asset or CGU may be impaired. The Group noted the following indications of impairment for the consulting segment (considered a CGU for impairment testing purposes) and its internally developed software:

Consulting segment

The forecast was adjusted in 20X2 for the decline in consulting services related to conventional telecommunication solutions. The market shifted considerably towards inter- and intranet based solutions during 20X2 and continued in 20X3. As a result, management expects lower growth and moderately declining profit margins for this segment.

Internally developed software

Alternative software products were developed by a competitor during 20X3 that offer functionality that are not presently incorporated in the Group's products. Management's expectation is that the market will shift considerably towards other alternative software products and will significantly reduce future revenues and profits in the next two to three years.

Example 2: Description of the entity's CGU when it recognises or reverses an impairment loss for the CGU during the period

IAS 36.130(d)(i)

For the purposes of assessing impairment, the Group's assets are grouped and reviewed for impairment at the CGU level (determined by management as equivalent to its operating segments). The Group has identified two service lines as its operating segments: consulting and retail. Assets related to each segment and the cash inflows generated by each are separately identifiable and independent of other assets or groups of assets. Internal management reporting is organised to monitor revenues at an operating segment-level basis while management makes strategic decisions about continuing or exiting operations on the basis of operating segment results.

An impairment loss was recognised for the consulting segment during the period.

Example 3: Explanation of the basis of key assumptions and the valuation approach used to determine the recoverable amount

IAS 36.80

For the purpose of annual impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to the operating segments expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combinations in which the goodwill arises as set out below, and is compared to its recoverable value:

Goodwill allocated to operating segments	31 December 20X3	31 December 20X2
Retail	4,796	2,493
Consulting	245	1,044
	5,041	3,537

IAS 36.134(a)

IAS 36.134(c-d)
IAS 36.130(e)

The recoverable amount of each segment was determined based on value-in-use calculations, covering a detailed three-year forecast, followed by an extrapolation of expected cash flows for the remaining useful lives using a declining growth rate determined by management. The present value of the expected cash flows of each segment is determined by applying a suitable discount rate reflecting current market assessments of the time value of money and risks specific to the segment.

Recoverable amount of each operating segment	31 December 20X3	31 December 20X2
Retail	41,835	30,679
Consulting	62,562	48,354

Excerpt from the discussion of the Retail Segment

IAS 36.134(d)(i)
IAS 36.130(d)(ii)

The recoverable amount of the retail segment was determined based on value-in-use calculations. The following paragraphs describe the key assumptions on which management has based its cash flow projections for the period covered by the most recent budgets/forecasts and a description of management's approach to determining the value(s) assigned to each key assumption:

Key assumptions

Management's key assumptions include:

- stable profit margins, based on past experience in this market (consistent with 20X2). The Group's management believes that this is the best available input for forecasting this mature market. Cash flow projections reflect stable profit margins achieved immediately before the budget period. No expected efficiency improvements have been taken into account and prices and wages reflect publicly available forecasts of inflation for the industry.
- forward exchange rates (USD/GBP) based on the average market forward exchange rate for the budget period (consistent with 20X2). Management obtains quoted rates from external sources of information. The exchange rate is estimated to be consistent with the average market forward exchange rate over the budget period.
- budgeted market share based on the average market share for the previous two periods, increased by the historical growth rate. Management anticipates that market share will continue to grow by 2-3% per year for the next 5 years (2-3% estimated in 20X2) due to its continued success in Europe.

Example 3: Explanation of the basis of key assumptions and the valuation approach used to determine the recoverable amount (cont.)

Cash flow projections

IAS 36.134(d)(iii) Cash flow projections are based on management's approved three-year budgets, followed by an extrapolation of expected cash flows for the remaining useful lives using growth rates determined by management as outlined below:

	Growth rates		Discount rates	
	20X3	20X2	20X3	20X2
Retail	3.0%	3.0%	9.3%	9.5%
Consulting	0.1%	0.5%	10.9%	10.1%

Growth rates

The growth rates reflect the long-term average growth rates for the product lines and industries of the segments (all publicly available). The growth rate for the retail segment exceeds the overall long-term average growth rates for Europe because this sector is expected to continue to grow at above-average rates for the foreseeable future.

Discount rates

The present value of the expected cash flows of each segment is determined by applying a suitable discount rate. The discount rate was derived based on weighted average cost of capital (WACC) for comparable entities in the IT industry, based on market data. The discount rates reflect appropriate adjustments relating to market risk and specific risk factors of each segment (incorporating adjustments for geographic location and currency risk). Management considered cash flows for the consulting segment to be more volatile due to the number of new consulting entities emerging in this space. Further, management considered the maturity and stability of the retail segment when determining the appropriate adjustments to this rate.

Example 4: Reasonably possible change in assumptions

After considering all key assumptions, management considers that a reasonably possible change in only the following assumptions would cause the Retail segment's carrying amount to exceed its recoverable amount:

Discount rate

If the discount rate currently used of 9.3% [9.5% 20X2] decreased by 2.4% (after incorporating any consequential effects of the change on other inputs used in the recoverable amount estimate), the CGU's recoverable amount would be equal to its carrying amount. This analysis incorporated reasonable changes in other key inputs into the discount rate including foreign currency, market risk premium, and the cost of debt.

Stable profit margins

If the assumed profit margins deviate by more than 5% (after incorporating any consequential effects of the change on other inputs used in the recoverable amount estimate), the CGU's recoverable amount would be equal to its carrying amount.

How we can help

We hope you find the information in this article helpful in giving you some insight into IAS 36. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised, please speak to your usual Grant Thornton contact or visit www.grantthornton.global/locations to find your local member firm.



Insights into IAS 36

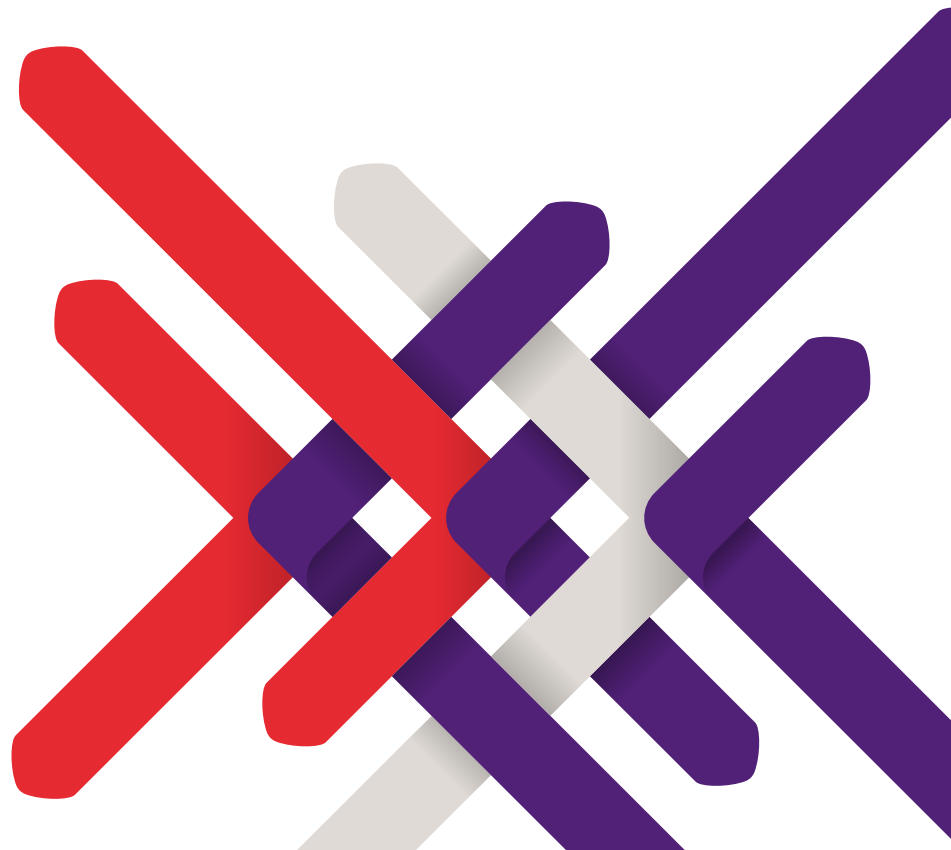
Other impairment issues

IAS 36 'Impairment of Assets' is a Standard that has been on issue for many years. However, some areas of the Standard are complex and therefore can be challenging to apply in practice, and therefore many entities struggle when determining whether or not their assets should be impaired.

The articles in our 'Insights into IAS 36' series have been written to assist preparers of financial statements and those charged with the governance of reporting entities understand the requirements set out in IAS 36, and revisit some areas where confusion has been seen in practice.

This article considers some regularly encountered application issues when applying IAS 36, which are:

- the 'deferred tax and goodwill problem'
- non-controlling interests
- equity accounting, and
- the interaction between IAS 36 and other IFRS.



Deferred tax and goodwill problem

This refers to a well-known application issue that sometimes arises in testing goodwill for impairment. In some business combinations, goodwill arises mainly or solely as a consequence of deferred tax liabilities (DTLs). DTLs are recognised (and increase goodwill) when the acquisition date fair value of identifiable assets exceeds their tax base. The effect of deferred tax on goodwill is relevant to most business combinations but can be particularly significant for acquisitions involving:

- properties acquired in a corporate shell for which the tax base is driven by the historical amount paid by the shell entity, and
- intangible assets that are recorded at fair value by the acquirer but were not recognised by the acquired entity (and therefore have a tax base of zero).

Example 1 illustrates how this interaction can affect the impairment review.

Example 1 – Deferred tax and goodwill problem

Entity A is a real estate investor and developer. The acquisition of an investment property is usually accomplished through buying a shell company which holds the property. The shell is used to minimise taxes payable when the property is sold on. The shell company allows the owner to postpone corporation tax on any increase in the value of the property.

During the reporting period, Entity A acquires an investment property (a retail outlet) through buying Entity B, a shell or single asset entity company that holds the property. Entity A concludes the acquisition is a business combination because the retail outlet is a business as defined in IFRS 3 ‘Business Combinations’.

The price paid by Entity A for 100% of Entity B is CU5,000, which is equal to fair value of Entity B and the fair value of the retail outlet is also CU5,000. The tax base of the retail outlet is CU3,000. The applicable tax rate is 35%. There are no other assets or liabilities in the shell company.

Entity A records the retail outlet at fair value in accordance with IFRS 3. The difference between the fair value of the investment property and its tax base (which in this case is the cost of the property in Entity B’s individual financial statements) results in a DTL. This is measured on an undiscounted basis in accordance with IAS 12 ‘Income Taxes’. Entity A’s acquisition accounting is then summarised:

	CU
Fair value of the retail outlet	5,000
Deferred tax liability 35% * (5,000-3,000)	(700)
Net assets acquired in accordance with IFRS 3	4,300
Goodwill (balancing figure)	700
Consideration transferred	5,000

For this purpose, the retail outlet is considered a separate cash-generating unit (CGU).

Analysis

As required by IAS 36, Entity A tests its goodwill for impairment at least annually. The carrying value of the CGU determined excluding the DTL is CU5,700. However, if fair values remain the same as the acquisition date then the fair value less costs of disposal (FVLCD) is CU5,000 less costs of disposal. Also, it is very likely that VIU would be similar to fair value in this fact pattern (unless Entity A can benefit from significant synergies or other entity-specific advantages not available to other market participants). If the VIU calculation also results in CU5,000, this suggests an apparent immediate impairment loss of CU700.

In our view, this deferred tax-related goodwill is an accounting phenomenon that does not represent real benefits that the acquirer has paid for and that may increase future cash flows. When this goodwill is tested for impairment (having been allocated to CGUs) using the normal IAS 36 approach, as illustrated in the example above, it may be immediately impaired (also referred to as a 'day 1' impairment).

IAS 36 requires the carrying value of a CGU to be calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of VIU. Hence, tax balances should generally be excluded from CGUs for impairment testing. However, recognising a day 1 impairment loss is also counter-intuitive and is viewed by some as an unintended consequence of the various requirements in IFRS 3, IAS 12 and IAS 36.

For this reason, many commenters believe that it is appropriate to use a practical expedient to avoid a day 1 impairment when it is due solely to DTLs increasing goodwill in a business combination. However, views differ on how to achieve this.

Practical insight – The deferred tax and goodwill problem

In example 1, recoverable amount based on FVLCOB, assuming that the acquisition price was fair value (and that nothing else has changed and costs of disposal are immaterial), would be CU5,000. In our view, when comparing this to carrying value, it is appropriate to include the DTL. This is because FVLCOB takes account of the tax features of the asset and the DTL would transfer to a buyer of the CGU (assuming they buy the shell company). Accordingly, no impairment loss arises. However, this approach is not a complete solution. While it may justify the CGU's carrying value based on FVLCOB, in other circumstances recoverable amount is wholly or partly based on VIU (eg if FVLCOB cannot be reliably measured going forward – which is more likely the case for some intangible assets recognised in a business combination).

In our view, however, IAS 36 can also be interpreted to allow some flexibility when considering which assets and liabilities can be included in the carrying value of a CGU for the purpose of comparison to VIU. It can be argued that, in order to undertake a meaningful impairment calculation, it is necessary to include the DTL in the net assets of the CGU to which this goodwill relates. However, it would only be appropriate to include this specific DTL in the carrying amount of the CGU. It is also important to note that over time, it may be difficult to track the specific DTLs that have led to the goodwill gross-up, especially as the related asset's carrying value and tax base change over time.

Non-controlling interests

Non-controlling interests (NCI) are equity instruments of the acquiree not held directly or indirectly by the acquirer and arise when a parent holds less than 100% of the equity of a subsidiary. IFRS 3 includes an accounting policy option to initially measure NCI at either:

- fair value, or
- the proportionate interest in the acquiree's recognised identifiable net assets,

When the fair value model is used, 100% of the goodwill in the acquiree is effectively recognised (both the acquirer's and the NCI's share) in the statement of financial position. This is sometimes described as the 'full goodwill' method. In this case, when the entity performs its impairment review, there is no 'mismatch'. This is because VIU and FVLCOB are estimated based on 100% of the asset or CGU under review and its related cash flows. Said differently, the entity will be comparing 'like with like'.

In practice however, an acquirer more often measures NCI at the proportionate interest in the acquiree's recognised identifiable net assets. In this case, only the acquirer's interest in the goodwill is recognised ('partial goodwill' method). Therefore, without an adjustment, the carrying value of the CGU is understated because recoverable amount is based on 100% of the cash flows but the carrying value does not include all the goodwill that contributes to those cash flows). Put another way, the entity will not be comparing 'like with like'.

In this situation, an adjustment is required to address the mismatch. The carrying amount of goodwill allocated to the unit must be grossed-up to include the goodwill attributable to the NCI. This involves:

- adding goodwill attributable to the NCI to the CGU, and
- comparing the adjusted carrying amount of the CGU to its recoverable amount.

If an impairment loss then arises, this must be allocated between the amount relating to the parent's recognised goodwill and the NCI share. Only the impairment loss relating to the goodwill that is allocated to the parent is recognised as a goodwill impairment loss.

Example 2 demonstrates how to adjust the impairment test when the proportionate interest method option (ie the partial goodwill method) is used to recognise and measure NCI in a business combination.

Example 2 - Adjusting the impairment test when the partial goodwill method has been applied

Assume Entity A acquired an 80% interest in Entity B during the reporting period for consideration of CU1,750. At that time, Entity A calculated the fair value of the identifiable net assets to be CU1,350 resulting in goodwill of CU400. Assume for simplicity that Entity B is a separate CGU (CGU B), that all the goodwill is allocated to CGU B and that Entity B only includes assets which belong to this CGU.

At the end of the reporting period, Entity A tests this goodwill for impairment. Management calculates CGU B's recoverable amount to be CU1,700. The carrying value of CGU B's identifiable assets remains CU1,350.

Analysis

Entity A performs the following calculations:

Carrying amounts of CGU B's assets			1,350
Allocated goodwill	80%		400
Notional NCI share of goodwill	20%		100
Notionally adjusted carrying amount of CGU B			1,850
Recoverable amount			1,700
Notional impairment loss			150

	CGU B (Entity A's interest)	NCI allocation	Total allocation
Allocated goodwill	400	-	400
NCI	-	100	100
Notional impairment loss allocated as follows	(120)	(30)*	(150)
	280	70	350
Remaining CGU B's assets	1,350	-	1,350
Revised carrying amount	1,630	70	1,700

* Entity A recognises CU120 impairment loss only (its share of the impairment), not the CU30 as that is the portion attributable to the NCI

Practical insight - Tracking NCI share of goodwill

Example 2 demonstrates the mechanics of considering NCI in the goodwill impairment test. If Entity A were to ignore this requirement, it would have calculated an impairment of CU50 (CU1,750 – CU1,700), rather than the CU120 recognised in accordance with IAS 36.

An entity must ensure that it tracks the NCI's share of goodwill on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis in order to apply this guidance. It is important to note that the 'gross-up' illustrated above is based on the NCI percentage when the acquisition occurred. If the NCI percentage later changes (due for example to partial disposals or NCI purchases with no change of control), this does not alter the amount of goodwill or the gross-up percentage. The tracking process also becomes more complex in various other circumstances, such as when:

- goodwill is allocated to more than one CGU
- goodwill from multiple acquisitions with different NCI percentages is allocated to the same CGU
- CGUs are reorganised, and
- components of a CGU with allocated goodwill are disposed of.

IAS 36 and equity accounting

The requirements of IAS 36 apply to subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures accounted for under the cost method in the parent's separate financial statements and to investments accounted for using the equity method in accordance with IAS 28 'Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures'. The impairment review for an investment in an associate or a joint venture involves two steps:

Step 1	Applying the equity method to recognise the investor's share of any impairment losses from the associate's or joint venture's identifiable assets
Step 2	Reviewing the investment in the associate or joint venture as a whole for impairment and recognising any impairment loss

Step 1: Applying the equity method

IAS 28 requires use of the equity method for investments in associates and joint ventures (with some very limited exceptions). In summary, the equity method involves:

- recording the investment at cost on acquisition, and
- subsequently adjusting the carrying value for the investor's share of profits or losses, less any distributions received.

In determining its share of share of profits or losses, the investor uses financial statements of the investee that comply with IFRS and are prepared using uniform accounting policies. This includes the application of IAS 36 to account for impairment of the investee's identifiable assets. It should be noted the investor should adjust the carrying amount of the investee's assets and liabilities to fair value at the date significant influence or joint control is obtained (in a similar manner to business combination accounting). This may in turn require subsequent adjustments to the investee's results – including its depreciation and impairment charges (see example 3).

Step 2: Reviewing the investment in the associate or joint venture as a whole for impairment

After applying the equity method, the investor should also consider whether there is objective evidence of impairment of its overall net investment. Any goodwill identified at acquisition is included in the overall net investment for this purpose. In evaluating the need for any additional impairment charge, the investor:

- applies the requirements of IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' to determine whether or not there is objective evidence of impairment
- if necessary, applies the requirements of IAS 36 to quantify any impairment loss

Example 3 – Step 1: Applying the equity method

On 1 January 20X3, Investor A acquires a 40% interest in Entity B, for CU300. Investor A determines that Entity B meets the IAS 28 definition of an associate. Entity B reports in accordance with IFRS and applies accounting policies consistent with Investor A's. At 1 January 20X3, Entity B's net assets total CU540. Investor A applies the requirements of IFRS 3 to recognise and measure Entity B's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities (mainly at their fair value). The book values and adjustments are summarised in the following table:

	Book value at 1 January 20X3	Fair value and other adjustments	Notes	Total
Property, plant & equipment (PP&E)	300	100	a)	400
Goodwill	40	(40)	b)	-
Other intangible assets	-	150	c)	150
Other assets & liabilities	200	-		200
Contingent liability – litigation	-	(150)	d)	(150)
Total	540	60		600
Investor A's 40% interest				240
Cost of 40% interest				300

- Adjustment to revalue PP&E to fair value of CU400. The remaining useful life is assessed as 10 years, with zero residual value
- Goodwill recognised by Entity B is not an identifiable asset so is excluded from the fair value statement of financial position
- Adjustment to recognise two brands owned by Entity B: Brand X is valued at CU130. Brand Y is valued at CU20. The estimated useful life of both brands is 10 years
- Adjustment to record at fair value a contingent liability in relation to a lawsuit filed against Entity B.

The accounting entry recorded on 1 January 20X3 is as follows:

1 January 20X3	Debit	Credit
Allocated goodwill	-	300
Notional NCI share of goodwill	300	-

Example 3 – Step 1: Applying the equity method (cont.)

During 20X3, Entity B records a net profit of CU200. This figure includes:

- an impairment charge of CU40 in relation to the goodwill recorded in Entity B's statement of financial position
- depreciation of CU30 in relation to PP&E, and
- a charge of CU200 reflecting a payment to settle the lawsuit referred to in (d) above.

Also, during 20X3 Entity B's management decides to discontinue Brand Y and focus on Brand X. Investor A determines that Brand Y is fully impaired. Entity B does not make any distributions in the year.

Based on these facts, Investor A makes the following adjustments to Entity B's net profit to determine the share of profit for equity accounting purposes:

	Notes	CU
Net profit as reported by Entity B		200
Adjustments:		
• additional depreciation	a)	(10)
• reversal of B's goodwill impairment	b)	40
• amortisation of Brand X	c)	(13)
• impairment of Brand Y	d)	(20)
• litigation settlement	e)	150
Net profit for equity accounting purposes		347
Investor A's 40% interest		139

- Adjustment to record additional depreciation based on the fair value of Entity B's PP&E – CU100/10 years
- Goodwill recognised by Entity B is excluded from the fair value statement of financial position, so the impairment charge needs to be reversed for equity accounting purposes
- Amortisation of Brand X – CU130/10 years
- Impairment charge of CU20 to write-off Brand Y
- Entity B has recorded an expense of CU200 for the litigation settlement but the contingent liability was recorded at an amount of CU150 in the fair value statement of financial position. This contingent liability is reversed for equity accounting purposes.

Investor A records the following entry to recognise its share of Entity B's profits:

31 Dec 20X3	Debit	Credit
Investment in associate	139	-
Statement of comprehensive income (share of profit of associate)	-	139

Consequently, the carrying value of the investment at 31 December 20X3 becomes CU439.

Example 4 – Step 2: Reviewing the investment in the associate or joint venture as a whole for impairment

If there is any objective evidence of impairment of this net investment amount as at 31 December 20X3, its recoverable amount should be estimated. The goodwill identified at acquisition (CU60) is included in the overall net investment for this purpose.

The impairment assessment performed should be in accordance with the principles and procedures outlined in IAS 36 (therefore, the entity will compare the carrying amount of the investment to the higher of its FVLCOB and VIU). VIU is determined by estimating:

- its share of the estimated future cash flows expected to be generated by the associate or joint venture (including proceeds from the ultimate disposal of the investment), or
- estimated future cash flows expected to arise from dividends to be received from the investment and from its ultimate disposal.

Both should yield the same result.

Interaction between IAS 36 and other IFRS Standards

This section highlights how IAS 36's requirements can interact with the requirements of certain other IFRS.

IAS 36 and IAS 34 'Interim Financial Reporting'

IAS 36 calls for an assessment 'at the end of each reporting period' for any indication that an asset may be impaired. For entities that prepare half-yearly or quarterly financial statements in accordance with IAS 34, the assessment will be more frequent than for entities that prepare only annual financial statements, subject to the 'reliefs' highlighted in our article '[Insights into IAS 36 – Comparing recoverable amount with carrying amount](#)'.

IAS 34 requires an entity to apply the same accounting policies in its interim financial statements as are applied in its annual financial statements.

IAS 34 also states the frequency of an entity's reporting (annual, half-yearly, or quarterly) should not affect the measurement of its annual results. However, the frequency of reporting can in fact affect annual results when an entity recognises an impairment loss on goodwill in an interim period. This loss cannot be reversed even if conditions change at the end of the annual period and indicate that the impairment loss would have been reduced or avoided (had the entity only reported annually).

IFRIC 10 'Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment' effectively confirms that the prohibition on reversing goodwill impairment in IAS 36 overrides the statement in IAS 34.

Example 5 – Interim financial reporting and impairment

Entity A prepares quarterly filings and therefore in accordance with IAS 36, Entity A assesses at the end of its first quarter (31 March 20X0) whether there is any indication that its assets are impaired. As an indicator is present, Entity A performs impairment testing for various assets and CGUs which include allocated goodwill. Ultimately, Entity A writes down certain assets and its goodwill balances as at 31 March 20X0.

By 31 December 20X0, conditions improve and indicate that the impairment loss recognised in the first quarter no longer exists, triggering Entity A to determine the recoverable amount for the same assets and CGUs.

Entity A reverses impairment losses recognised in prior periods for all assets (subject to the ceilings discussed in '[Insights into IAS 36 – Reversing impairment losses](#)'), with the exception of goodwill as reversals of impairment losses for goodwill are prohibited.

IAS 36 and IAS 10 ‘Events after the Reporting Period’

IAS 10 provides guidance on whether an entity should adjust its financial statements for events that occur after the reporting period and prescribes related disclosures. In summary, adjustments are made for events that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period while no adjustments are made for events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the end of the reporting period. An event such as physical damage arising after the reporting period would clearly be non-adjusting.

The impact of evidence that becomes available after the reporting period about adverse changes in economic performance or the external environment may require more detailed evaluation. Judgement may be required to decide whether the underlying adverse condition existed at the period-end.

If an entity concludes that an event after period-end is indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (ie a non-adjusting event), disclosure in accordance with IAS 10 may still be necessary.

Practical insight – IAS 36 and IAS 10

Practical issues arise in this area where management receives information after the period-end that may be evidence of an impairment loss (or reversal) indicator as at the period-end (eg, after the period-end, a competitor launches a new, superior product that will significantly and negatively impact the business or new information becomes available related to a key input in the entity’s VIU estimate, such as a change in commodity prices, which makes current assumptions unsupported). Management must carefully consider all particular facts and circumstances when such instances arise. Generally, these practical issues arise only when an entity uses VIU to estimate the recoverable amount of an asset, CGU (or group of CGUs) as fair value estimates are generally not updated for changes in fair value after the period-end (IAS 10 and IFRS 13 ‘Fair Value Measurement’).

IAS 36 and IFRS 5 ‘Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations’

Once an asset meets the criteria to be classified as held for sale (or is included in a disposal group that is classified as held for sale), it is excluded from the scope of IAS 36 and included within the scope of IFRS 5. However, immediately prior to reclassification to IFRS 5, any impairment is recognised in accordance with the provisions outlined in IAS 36.

Practical insight – IAS 36 and IFRS 5 as noted by regulators

Plans to dispose of assets may be an indicator that the asset(s) may be impaired and may accordingly trigger impairment testing procedures. Any impairments (or reversals of previous impairments) are recognised before the entity classifies the asset(s) as held for sale. A red flag for potentially indicating that IAS 36 has not been applied correctly is where the statement of comprehensive income shows a loss from discontinued operations (including asset disposals), but the entity did not recognise any impairment loss in prior periods. When this situation has arisen some regulators have investigated further.

IAS 36 and IAS 37 ‘Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets’

The interaction between IAS 36 and IAS 37 in relation to restructuring plans and VIU is explained in ‘**Insights into IAS 36 – Value in use: estimating future cash inflows and outflows**’.

Another interaction arises in relation to onerous contracts. IAS 37 requires that an entity recognises any impairment loss that has occurred on assets dedicated to completion of a contract before recognising an onerous contract provision. For example, a lessee in an operating lease of property that might have become onerous would test any leasehold improvements for impairment before recognising and measuring a provision for the onerous lease.

How we can help

We hope you find the information in this article helpful in giving you some insight into IAS 36. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised, please speak to your usual Grant Thornton contact or visit www.grantthornton.global/locations to find your local member firm.

