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Overview of IFRS17 David Burton



- An overview of IFRS 17
- Building Block Approach
- Premium Allocation Approach
- Contracts with participating features
- Implementation



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IFRS17 objectives

Improve comparability

- 1. Lack of comparability between insurers
- 2. Non-uniform reporting of products within groups
- 3. Inconsistency with other industries

- Worldwide objective to harmonise insurance accounting practices across jurisdictions
- New framework replaces a huge variety of accounting treatments
- · Revenue reflects the services provided

Improve quality of financial information

- 1. Lack of useful information
- 2. Lack of transparency about profitability

- Discount rate will reflect characteristics of the insurance contract
- Additional metrics to evaluate performance
 will be available



IFRS 17 – overview of the proposed model



Scope of IFRS17

Application confirmed	\checkmark	Excluded from application	×
Insurance contracts Reinsurance contracts held by insurance companies (amended guidance)		Financial guarantee contracts, unless the issuer has previously classified them as insurance contracts (status quo under IFRS 4 Phase I)	
Investment contracts with a discretionary participation feature issued by insurance companies		Application optional Expansion of the guidance for certain fixed-fee service contracts (Choice between application of IFRS 17 or IFRS 15)	?



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Measurement approaches

Standard approach to measurement

Building Block Approach (BBA)

Contracts with participating features Premium Allocation Approach (PAA) **Reinsurance contracts** Investment contracts with discretionary participation feature Portfolio transfers and business combinations

Variable fee approach, for certain types of participating contracts

Option for contracts with coverage period of one year or less

Supplementary requirements for specific topics



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BBA – Measurement on initial recognition – Cash flows and contract boundary



BBA – Measurement on initial recognition – Fulfilment Cash flows – Examples

Included

- Premiums including premium adjustments
- Incurred, reported and future claims and benefits, including claim-handling costs
- Fixed and variable overheads that are directly attributable at the portfolio level
- Cash flows from options and guarantees embedded in the contract to the extent that these options and guarantees are not separated
- Acquisition costs that are directly attributable to the portfolio
- Policy administration and maintenance costs, including commissions
- Transaction-based taxes and levies that arise directly from the contract
- Payments by the insurer in a fiduciary capacity to meet tax obligations incurred by the policyholder
- Profit participation

Excluded

- Investment returns on underlying items (unless variable fee approach applies)
- Cash flows that arise from components that are separated from the insurance contract
- Cash flows between different components of the reporting entity
- Cash flows (payments or receipts) that arise under reinsurance contracts
- acquisition costs not directly attributable to the portfolio that may arise at sale, underwriting or contract introduction
- Cash flows that arise from abnormal amounts of wasted labour or other resources that are used to fulfil the contract
- Product-development costs
- Training costs
- Income tax payments and receipts



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BBA – Measurement on initial recognition – Time value of money

Contractual	Adjust the estimates of future cash flows for the time value of money using discount rates that:
service margin	 Reflects characteristics of fulfilment cash flows
Risk	 Consistent with observable market prices for instruments with cash flows that have consistent characteristics with insurance contract, e.g., with respect to timing, currency and liquidity
adjustment	Adjust observed market prices to reflect the characteristics of the liability/the factors that are relevant for the contracts, e.g., exclude irrelevant risks, estimate the rate beyond the period of observable data
Time value of money	 Consistent with other estimates used to measure the insurance contract (e.g., inflation, discount rate for participating contracts)
	 No particular method prescribed to determine discount rates:
	 Top-down approach or bottom-up approach – starting from market yields, or from risk free curve
Future cash flows	When applying PAA: no need to discount cash flows which are expected to be paid or received in one year or less



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BBA: Measurement on initial recognition – Risk adjustment

Contractual service margin	 Compensation that an entity requires for bearing the uncertainty about the amount and timing of the cash flows that arise as the entity fulfils the insurance contract RA shall be included in the measurement in an explicit way (i.e., uncertainty should not be
Risk adjustment	 Reflects both favourable and unfavourable outcomes in a way that reflects the entity's degree of risk aversion
Time value of money	 Conveys the degree of diversification benefit that is considered when determining the compensation for bearing uncertainty
Future cash flows	 No prescribed technique so different companies may use different techniques Disclosure on the confidence-level is required if the entity uses a technique other than the confidence level Low frequency but high risk severity Uncertainty ↑ Uncertainty ↑ Risk adjustment ↑
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BBA: Measurement on initial recognition – Contractual service margin – Key features

Contractual service margin	 At initial recognition, the CSM is defined as the net difference between the fulfilment cash inflows and outflows, floored by zero (i.e., cannot be negative) Purpose of recognising a positive initial CSM: Objective is to report expected profitability from the
Risk adjustment	 contract over time (thus eliminating any day-one gain) If CSM is floored by zero at inception, the insurance contract is onerous. Losses should be recognised in P&L immediately
Time value of money	 Interest applied to CSM is calculated with initial discount rates (locked-in) Objective for allocation to recognise the contractual service margin for an individual contract, or groups of homogeneous contracts, in profit and loss over the coverage period of the contract in a way that host reflects the service to be provided.
Future cash flows	way that best reliects the service to be provided



BBA – Measurement on initial recognition



CSM – illustration of unlocking



12 September 2017

Building block approach (BBA) – subsequent measurement

Presentation of changes overview

The IASB proposed to disaggregate changes in the measurement of the insurance contracts in different line items of the financial statements, depending on the sources of the changes.





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Premium Allocation Approach

Insurance contract liability can be split into:

- Liability for the remaining coverage simplified approach based on allocation of premium (analogous to existing UPR)
- Liability for incurred claims Building Block Approach (analogous to existing claim reserves)



Premium Allocation Approach (cont'd)

The PAA may be used if:

- Contract coverage period is one year or less, or
- PAA produces a reasonable approximation of the building block approach, e.g.,
 - Premium allocation to coverage periods does not require significant judgement and
 - Claims expectations are not likely to change significantly during coverage period
- Onerous contracts: an additional (onerous contracts) liability is recorded
- To reflect time value of money if a significant financing component is included and the start of coverage is more than 1 year after premium payment



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What is a participating contract?

Contracts that have a feature by which the entity shares additional risks and rewards with the policyholder, in some contracts subject to discretion of the entity

- Profit sharing may be based on specific assets, groups of assets and liabilities, the profit made by a fund or company or an index
- These are referred to as 'underlying items'

Examples of contracts that typically are participating contracts:

- Unit linked contracts
- With-profit contracts
- Continental European participating contracts
- Universal life contracts
- Variable annuity contracts



Why does the BBA not work for these contracts?

Problem is not with BEL measurement but with how the movements are reported in P&L/OCI and CSM. Unwarranted profit volatility for long term business:

- ► Shareholder's share of underlying items
- ► Time value of options and guarantees
- Mismatches between P&L recognition of investment income on underlying assets (backing the participating contracts) and investment expense relating to those contracts

Participating contracts include significant investment related services – they 'spread out' market fluctuations for policyholders. The BBA approach requires all changes resulting from market movements to be recognised in P&L/OCI. As these movements fluctuate over time and relate to the provision of service it makes more sense to include them in the measurement of the CSM in the same way as changes in expected cash flows and risk adjustment



Participating contracts

IASB views the shareholder's share in underlying items as a Variable fee for investment-related services.

Obligation under the contract to pay the policyholder an amount equal to the value of underlying items less a variable fee

Variable fee = shareholder's share less any expected cash flows that do not vary directly with the underlying items (e.g., expenses, Options & Guarantees)

Variable fee approach:

- Changes in the variable fee are not recognised immediately in other comprehensive income but included in CSM unlocking
- CSM updated for current interest rates and released on the basis of passage of time
- Risk mitigation: option to report changes in embedded guarantees in PL if certain criteria and documentation requirements are met
- If the insurer holds underlying items and uses OCI for reporting changes in market interest rates the P&L interest charge is equal to the P&L investment income on the underlying items.



Participating contracts (cont'd)

- Variable fee approach can be used if three criteria are met:
 - The contract specifies a share in a clearly identifiable pool of underlying items (assets or other profit sources)
 - The entity expects to pay an amount equal to a substantial share of the returns from the underlying items
 - A substantial proportion of the expected payment should be expected to vary with the underlying items

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- What does 'specifies' mean, when is a pool 'clearly identifiable'?
- When is a share 'substantial', how to apply an entity's expectations?
- What is a 'substantial portion', how to evaluate the role of guarantees?

- Contracts meeting these requirements are called Direct participating contracts. Those failing are called Indirect participating contracts
- Assessment to be performed at inception, no re-assessment



Accounting for participating contracts vs. non participating contracts

	Continuum of insurance contracts			
Type of contract	Non-participating	Indirect participating	D	irect participating
Measurement	General model		Varia	ole fee model
Interest expense	General model – Effective	yield		Current period book yield

Differences	General model	Variable fee model
Subsequent measurement – Market variables	PL or OCI, following the general model	CSM (PL if risk-mitigated)
Accretion of interest on CSM	Locked-in rate	Current rate
Insurance investment expense	Effective yield-based	Current period book yield (if investments are held)



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IFRS 17 – what does that mean to the business?







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