

Question 1—Assessing exchangeability between two currencies

Paragraph 8 of the draft amendments to IAS 21 specifies that a currency is exchangeable into another currency when an entity is able to exchange that currency for the other currency. Paragraphs A2–A11 of [draft] Appendix A to IAS 21 set out factors an entity considers in assessing exchangeability and specify how those factors affect the assessment.

Paragraphs BC4–BC16 of the Basis for Conclusions explain the Board’s rationale for this proposal.

Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not? If you disagree with the proposal, please explain what you suggest instead and why.

Specific Paras referred in above question are indicated as below:

Para 8: Closing rate is the spot exchange rate at the end of the reporting period.

A currency is exchangeable into another currency when an entity is able to exchange that currency for the other currency.

Spot exchange rate is the exchange rate for immediate delivery.

Para A2 to A11

Assessing exchangeability between two currencies

A2: A currency is exchangeable into another currency at a measurement date when an entity is able to exchange that currency for the other currency within a time frame that includes a normal administrative delay and through a market or exchange mechanism in which the exchange transaction would create enforceable rights and obligations. If an entity is able to obtain no more than an insignificant amount of the other currency, a currency is not exchangeable into the other currency.

A3: An entity shall assess whether a currency is exchangeable into the other currency separately for each reporting purpose specified in paragraph A9. For example, an entity shall assess exchangeability for the purpose of reporting foreign currency transactions in its functional currency (see paragraph A9(a)) separately from exchangeability for the purpose of translating the results and financial position of a foreign operation (see paragraph A9(c)).

A4: The requirements in paragraphs A5–A11 specify how an entity assesses whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency.

A5: Time Frame Paragraph 8 defines a spot exchange rate as the exchange rate for immediate delivery. However, an exchange transaction may not always complete instantaneously, because of legal or regulatory requirements applying to exchange transactions, or for practical reasons such as statutory holidays. A normal administrative delay in obtaining the other currency does not preclude a currency from being exchangeable into that other currency. What constitutes a normal administrative delay depends on facts and circumstances.

A6: Ability to obtain the other currency

In assessing whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency, an entity shall consider its ability to obtain the other currency, and not its intention or decision to do so. Subject to the other requirements in paragraphs A5–A11, a currency is exchangeable into another currency if an entity is able to obtain the other currency—either directly or indirectly—even if it intends or decides not to do so. For example, subject to the other requirements in paragraphs A5–A11, currency LC is exchangeable into currency PC if an entity is able to either exchange LC for PC, or exchange LC for another currency (FC) and then exchange FC for PC, regardless of whether the entity intends or decides to obtain PC.

A7: Markets or exchange mechanisms

In assessing whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency, an entity shall consider only markets or exchange mechanisms in which a transaction to exchange the currency for the other currency would create enforceable rights and obligations. Enforceability is a matter of law. Whether an exchange transaction in a market or exchange mechanism would create enforceable rights and obligations depends on facts and circumstances.

A8: Purpose of obtaining the other currency

Different rates might apply for different uses of a currency. For example, a jurisdiction facing pressure on its balance of payments might wish to deter capital remittances (such as dividend payments) to other jurisdictions but encourage imports of specific goods from those jurisdictions. In such circumstances, the jurisdictional authorities might:

- (a) set a preferential exchange rate for imports of those goods and a ‘penalty’ exchange rate for capital remittances to other jurisdictions, thus resulting in different exchange rates applying to different exchange transactions; or
- (b) make the other currency available only to pay for imports of those goods and not for capital remittances to other jurisdictions.

A9: Accordingly, whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency could depend on the purpose for which the entity obtains the other currency. In assessing exchangeability, an entity shall assume the purpose of obtaining the other currency is to:

- (a) settle individual foreign currency transactions, assets or liabilities for foreign currency transactions reported in the entity’s functional currency.

(b) realise the entity's net assets for the use of a presentation currency other than the entity's functional currency.

(c) realise the entity's net investment in a foreign operation for translating the results and financial position of that foreign operation.

A10: An entity's net assets or net investment in a foreign operation might be realised by for example:

(a) the distribution of a financial return to the entity's owners;

(b) the receipt of a financial return from the entity's foreign operation; or

(c) the entity's owners recovering their investment, such as through disposal of the investment.

A11: Ability to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency

An entity may be able to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency. For example, an entity with a liability denominated in a foreign currency (FC1,000) may be able to obtain only FC50 to settle that liability. In such circumstances, a currency is not exchangeable into another currency when, for a purpose specified in paragraph A9, an entity is able to obtain no more than an insignificant amount of the other currency. An entity shall assess the significance of the amount of the other currency it is able to obtain for a specified purpose by comparing that amount with the total amount of the other currency required for that purpose.

Para BC4 to BC16 (Board's Consideration)

BC4: Many factors influence exchangeability between two currencies. To make the definition proposed in paragraph 8 operational and to help entities apply that definition consistently, the Board is proposing to specify when an entity is able (and thus unable) to exchange a currency for another currency. In identifying the factors required to be considered in making the assessment, the Board considered:

(a) what time frame for obtaining the other currency does an entity consider (paragraph BC5)?

(b) what if an entity is able to obtain the other currency, but does not intend to do so (paragraph BC6)?

(c) which markets or exchange mechanisms for obtaining the other currency does an entity consider (paragraph BC7)?

(d) what is the purpose for which an entity obtains the other currency (paragraphs BC8–BC12)?

(e) what if an entity is able to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency (paragraphs BC13–BC16)?

BC5: Time Frame Proposed paragraph A5 reflects the Board’s conclusion that a normal administrative delay in obtaining the other currency does not preclude a currency from being exchangeable into that other currency. Ignoring normal administrative delays would, in the Board’s view, lead to entities inappropriately concluding that exchangeability is lacking when a currency would, in effect, be exchangeable into that other currency. The Board decided not to propose application guidance on what would constitute a ‘normal administrative delay’—this assessment would depend on facts and circumstances (for example, the jurisdiction in which an exchange transaction occurs and the type of exchange mechanism).

BC6: Ability to obtain the other currency

The Board decided that assessing whether a currency is exchangeable into another currency should depend on an entity’s ability to obtain the other currency, and not its intention or decision to do so. For example, a currency can be exchangeable into another currency for the purpose of realising an entity’s net investment in a foreign operation even if the entity has no intention of entering into a transaction that would result in realising that net investment. This proposal is consistent with other requirements in IAS 21— for example, the requirement to use a spot exchange rate when translating amounts into another currency regardless of an entity’s intention or decision to enter into a transaction at that spot exchange rate.

BC7: Markets or exchange mechanisms

The Board considered whether to require an entity to consider specified markets or exchange mechanisms (for example, government-administered exchange mechanisms) when assessing exchangeability. The Board observed that the nature and type of markets or exchange mechanisms can vary between jurisdictions and, accordingly, decided that it would be more appropriate to require entities to consider only markets or exchange mechanisms in which a transaction to exchange one currency for another would create enforceable rights and obligations.

BC8: Purpose of obtaining the other currency

In many jurisdictions (particularly where exchange rates are free-floating), only one exchange rate exists between two currencies—the purpose for which an entity intends to use the other currency would neither change the exchange rate nor affect the entity’s ability to obtain that other currency. However, for some currencies different exchange rates apply for different uses, which could affect an entity’s ability to obtain those currencies. The Board therefore concluded that it is important for an entity to consider the purpose for which it obtains the other currency when assessing exchangeability.

BC9: The Board considered separately situations in which an entity: (a) reports foreign currency transactions in its functional currency; and (b) uses a presentation currency other than its functional currency or translates the results and financial position of a foreign operation.

BC10: Paragraphs 20–37 of IAS 21 specify requirements for reporting foreign currency transactions in the functional currency. Those requirements apply to individual foreign currency transactions, and monetary and non-monetary items relating to those transactions. The Board decided that, when reporting foreign currency transactions, an entity should assess a currency’s exchangeability separately for each individual transaction, asset or liability— that is, an entity would assume the purpose of obtaining foreign currency is to settle the individual foreign currency transaction, asset or liability. An entity would therefore assess whether it is able to obtain the other currency to settle the transaction, or the asset or liability related to that transaction. Requiring entities to assess each individual transaction, asset or liability would not create a new assessment, because paragraph 26 of IAS 21 already requires an entity to do so when several exchange rates are available.

BC11:

Paragraphs 38–49 of IAS 21 specify requirements for the use of a presentation currency other than the functional currency and for translating the results and financial position of a foreign operation. Those requirements apply to all assets and liabilities (that is, the net assets)—and not to individual assets or liabilities—of an entity or its foreign operation. The Board therefore decided that, in these situations, an entity should assess exchangeability from the perspective of a transaction that would result in realising its net assets or net investment in the foreign operation.

BC12: The Board also considered whether:

- (a) specifying that the purpose of obtaining the other currency is to realise an entity’s net assets (or net investment in a foreign operation) might result in identifying many currencies that are not exchangeable because of delays that might exist when remitting dividends from some jurisdictions. The Board noted that delays in remitting dividends would not necessarily result in a conclusion that a currency is not exchangeable into the other currency—that delay might reflect a normal administrative delay. Neither would concluding that a currency is not exchangeable into another currency automatically require an entity to use an estimation technique (see paragraph BC19).
- (b) to require an entity to consider its ability to realise its net assets (or net investment in a foreign operation) over time rather than in a single transaction because an entity might often be unable to do so in a single transaction. Considering a single transaction that would result in realising an entity’s net assets or net investment in a foreign operation aligns with the requirements in IAS 21 (see paragraph BC11). The Board also noted that, applying proposed paragraph A11, a currency would be exchangeable into another currency even if an entity is unable to obtain the entire amount, but is able to obtain more than an insignificant amount, of the other currency required to realise its net assets or net investment in a foreign operation.

BC13: Ability to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency

An entity might be able to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency—for example, an entity with a liability denominated in a foreign currency (FC1,000) might be able to obtain only FC50 to settle that liability. In deciding how to define exchangeability, the Board considered four alternatives with respect to the amount of the other currency obtainable. A currency could be exchangeable into another currency when an entity is able to obtain:

- (a) any amount of that other currency (Alternative I);
- (b) more than an insignificant amount of that other currency (Alternative II);
- (c) more than a significant amount of that other currency (Alternative III); or
- (d) the entire amount of that other currency (Alternative IV).

BC14: The Board decided to propose Alternative II, because:

- (a) Alternative I would be very narrow and would lead to a lack of exchangeability only in the most extreme situations. Alternative I would therefore limit some of the benefits of the proposed amendments.
- (b) Alternative IV would lead to a lack of exchangeability in many situations, which could cause unintended consequences.
- (c) Alternative II would have a narrower scope than Alternative III (therefore Alternative II aligns more closely with the Board's view that an entity should estimate the spot exchange rate only in a narrow set of circumstances).
- (d) Alternative II is similar to the approach in IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement when the volume or level of activity for an asset or liability has significantly decreased (paragraphs B37–B42 of IFRS 13). Measuring fair value when there are few market transactions is similar in many respects to determining an appropriate spot exchange rate when an entity is able to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency. When measuring an asset or liability's fair value, a reduced volume or level of market activity may lead an entity to depart from using unadjusted observable prices. Similarly, the Board's proposal (Alternative II) is that an entity would depart from using the observable spot exchange rate—and instead estimate the spot exchange rate—when the activity in the market in which it obtains the other currency is so low that it is able to obtain only an insignificant amount of that other currency.

BC15: When an entity reports foreign currency transactions in its functional currency and is unable to obtain the entire amount of the currency required to settle those transactions and balances, a question arises about the level at which the entity assesses exchangeability. For example, an entity with a functional currency of LC has four trade payable balances denominated in FC. The balance of each

payable is FC25 and therefore the sum of the balances is FC100. The entity would be able to obtain a total amount of FC25 for the purpose of settling those transactions. In this case, does the entity:

(a) consider each payable separately? If so, the entity would need to allocate the available FC25 to each of the four payables, for example:

(i) on a residual basis—that is, by allocating FC25 to one payable and nothing to the other three payables. The entity would therefore conclude LC is exchangeable into FC for one payable and not exchangeable into FC for the other three payables (residual method); or

(ii) on a relative basis—that is, by allocating FC6.25 ($FC25 \div 4$) to each payable. The entity would therefore assess, for each payable, whether FC6.25 is more than insignificant in relation to the FC25 payable balance. The entity would conclude that LC is exchangeable into FC for either all or none of the payables (relative method).

(c) consider the payables on an aggregated basis? If so, the entity would assess whether the total amount of FC obtainable (FC25) is more than insignificant when compared with the aggregated amount of the payables' balances (FC100). The entity would again conclude that LC is exchangeable into FC for either all or none of the payables (aggregate method).

BC16: In the Board's view, the relative method would provide information that more faithfully represents the circumstances than would the residual method. The Board also noted that the outcomes of the relative method and the aggregate method are the same, but concluded that the aggregate method would be easier for entities to apply. The Board is therefore proposing that, when an entity assesses the significance of the amount of the other currency the entity is able to obtain for a specified purpose, it would do so by comparing that amount with the total amount of the other currency required for that purpose.

I agree with the proposal towards the question Assessing exchangeability between two countries.

Rationale:

As this proposal suggests information and standard on :

- a) when a currency is exchangeable into another currency and, consequently, when it is not;
- b) how an entity determines the exchange rate to apply when a currency is not exchangeable; and
- c) the information an entity provides when a currency is not exchangeable

The proposal highlights some of the main issues regarding Time Frame, Ability to obtain other currency, purpose of obtaining other currency, ability to obtain only limited amounts of the other currency and after going through it appears to be a fair proposal.

Proposal has carefully kept in consideration all scenarios and view points while reaching out to conclusion. Suitable illustrations have also been incorporated for better clarity.

Question 2—Determining the spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking

Paragraphs 19A–19C and paragraphs A12–A15 of the draft amendments to IAS 21 specify how an entity determines the spot exchange rate when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency.

Paragraphs BC17–BC20 of the Basis for Conclusions explain the Board’s rationale for this proposal. Do you agree with this proposal? Why or why not? If you disagree with the proposal, please explain what you suggest instead and why.

Specific Para’s

Determining the spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking

19A: When exchangeability between two currencies is lacking—that is, when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency (as described in paragraphs A2–A11) at a measurement date—an entity shall estimate the spot exchange rate at that date. The estimated spot exchange rate shall meet the following conditions assessed at the measurement date:

- (a) a rate at which an entity would have been able to enter into an exchange transaction had the currency been exchangeable into the other currency;
- (b) a rate that would have applied to an orderly transaction between market participants; and
- (c) a rate that faithfully reflects the prevailing economic conditions.

19B: In estimating the spot exchange rate as required by paragraph 19A, an entity may use an observable exchange rate as the estimated spot exchange rate when that observable exchange rate meets the conditions in paragraph 19A and is either:

- (a) a spot exchange rate for a purpose other than that for which the entity assesses exchangeability; or
- (b) the first exchange rate at which an entity is able to obtain the other currency after exchangeability of the currency is restored (first subsequent exchange rate).

19C: The requirements in paragraphs A12–A15 specify how an entity applies paragraphs 19A–19B in determining the spot exchange rate when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency.

Determining the spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking (paragraphs 19A–19B)

A12: Using an observable exchange rate

A currency that is not exchangeable into another currency for one purpose may be exchangeable into that currency for another purpose. For example, an entity may be able to obtain a currency to import specific goods but not to pay dividends. In such situations, an entity might conclude that an observable exchange rate for another purpose meets the conditions in paragraph 19A and, when the rate does so, the entity may use that rate as the estimated spot exchange rate.

A13: In assessing whether such an observable exchange rate meets the conditions in paragraph 19A, an entity shall consider, among other factors:

- a) whether several exchange rates exist—the existence of more than one observable exchange rate may indicate that exchange rates are set to encourage, or deter, entities from obtaining the other currency for particular purposes. Accordingly, these observable exchange rates may include an ‘incentive’ or ‘penalty’ and therefore may not faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions.
- b) the purpose for which the currency is exchangeable—if an entity is able to obtain the other currency only for limited purposes (such as to import emergency supplies), the observable exchange rate may not faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions.
- c) the nature of the exchange rate—a free-floating observable exchange rate is more likely to faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions than an exchange rate set through regular interventions from the relevant monetary or jurisdictional authorities.
- d) the frequency with which exchange rates are updated—an observable exchange rate unchanged over time is less likely to faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions than an observable exchange rate updated more frequently (for example, one or more times a day).

A14: Using the first subsequent exchange rate

A currency that is not exchangeable into another currency at the measurement date might subsequently become exchangeable into that currency. In such situations, an entity might conclude that the first subsequent exchange rate meets the conditions in paragraph 19A, and when the rate does so, the entity may use that rate as the estimated spot exchange rate.

A15: In assessing whether the first subsequent exchange rate meets the conditions in paragraph 19A, an entity shall consider, among other factors:

(a) the time between the measurement date and the date at which exchangeability is restored—the shorter this period, the more likely the first subsequent exchange rate will faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions.

(b) inflation rates—when an economy is hyperinflationary (as specified in IAS 29 Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies) or is otherwise subject to high inflation, prices often change quickly and might change several times a day. Accordingly, the first subsequent exchange rate for a currency of such an economy may not faithfully reflect the prevailing economic conditions.

Board's Consideration

BC17: IAS 21 generally requires an entity to apply a spot exchange rate when reporting foreign currency transactions in its functional currency, using a presentation currency other than its functional currency or translating the results and financial position of a foreign operation. When a currency is not exchangeable into another currency, an entity is unable to observe the spot exchange rate. The Board is therefore proposing to specify how an entity determines the spot exchange rate in those circumstances.

BC18: The Board decided to propose conditions to be met when estimating a spot exchange rate. The Board did not propose any detailed requirements on how an entity should make that estimation because:

(a) estimating a spot exchange rate can be complicated and would depend on entity-specific and jurisdiction-specific facts and circumstances.

(b) there are many economic models an entity might use to estimate a spot exchange rate. Those models vary in complexity and in the economic factors they use as inputs (for example, inflation, interest rates, the balance of payments or a jurisdiction's productivity). Prescribing one estimation technique or approach would be inappropriate because it would be unlikely to capture all relevant factors for all possible situations in a way that would not be too burdensome.

(c) the requirements for assessing exchangeability are expected to result in an entity estimating the spot exchange rate only in a narrow set of circumstances.

(d) the uncertainties inherent in estimating a spot exchange rate are similar to those that relate to other financial information based on estimates. Disclosing relevant information about the estimated spot exchange rate and the estimation technique would supplement the proposed approach (see paragraphs BC21–BC22).

(e) such an approach is consistent with the measurement requirements in other IFRS Standards. For example, IFRS 9 Financial Instruments specifies no particular technique for the measurement of expected credit losses, but instead sets out a clear objective.

BC19: Using an observable exchange rate

The Board noted that when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency, an entity would not necessarily need to use a complex estimation technique. In some situations an entity could estimate the spot exchange rate by starting with an observable exchange rate and adjusting that rate, as necessary, to estimate the spot exchange rate as proposed in paragraph 19A. To reduce complexity, the Board also decided to explicitly permit an entity to use an observable exchange rate as the estimated spot exchange rate in two situations if that observable exchange rate would meet the conditions in proposed

paragraph 19A. To help entities assess whether an observable exchange rate would meet those conditions, the Board is proposing to specify a non-exhaustive list of factors.

Response

Paragraphs 19A–19C and paragraphs A12–A15 of the draft amendments to IAS 21 specify how an entity determines the spot exchange rate when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency.

The proposal is relevant and describes mechanism the most important factor of determining the spot exchange rate when a currency is not exchangeable into another currency. The proposal mentions techniques and takes into consideration observable exchange rate, whether several exchange rates exist, the purpose for which the currency is exchangeable, the nature of the exchange rate, the frequency with which exchange rates are updated and Using the first subsequent exchange rate.

However, if we see Para A12, using observable exchange rate for another purpose, may at times be partially incorrect and differ from purpose to purpose having a lot of variation. However Proposal and board's consideration do take care of this scenario, but still should be used judiciously.