

# International Accounting Standard 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

is to prescribe the criteria for selecting and changing accounting policies, together with the accounting treatment and disclosure of changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and corrections of errors. The Standard is intended to enhance the relevance and reliability of an entity's financial statements, and the comparability of those financial statements over time and with the financial statements of other entities



Retrospective application is applying a new accounting policy to transactions, other events and conditions as if that policy had always been applied.

Retrospective restatement is correcting the recognition, measurement and disclosure of amounts of elements of financial statements as if a prior period error had never occurred.

**Prospective application** of a change in accounting policy and of recognising the effect of a change in an accounting estimate, respectively.





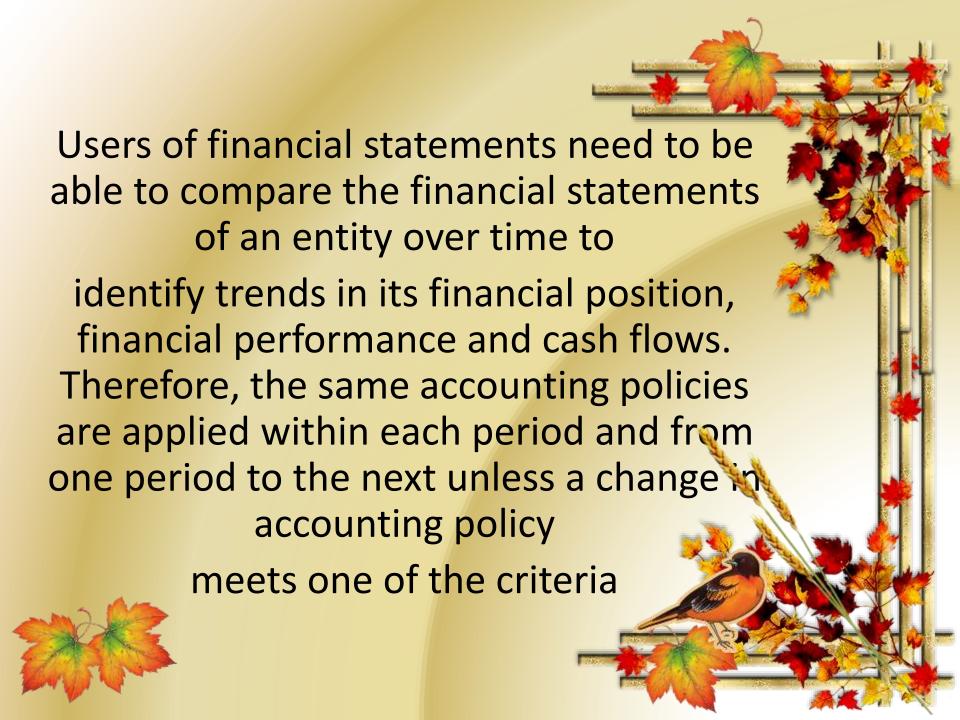
## An entity shall change an accounting policy only if the change:

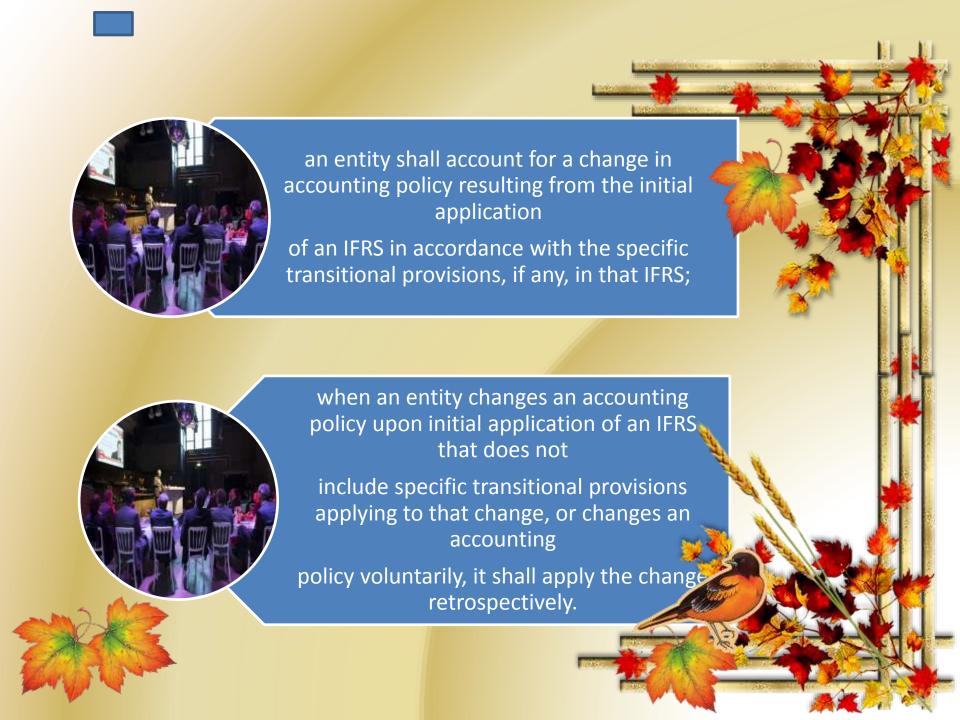
- (a) is required by an IFRS; or
- (b) results in the financial statements providing reliable and more relevant information about the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the entity's financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

Users of financial statements need to be able to compare the financial statements of an entity over time to

performance and cash flows. Therefore, the same

accounting





When initial application of an IFRS has an effect on the current period or any prior period, would have such an effect except that it is impracticable to determine the amount of the adjustment, or might have an effect on future periods, an entity shall disclose:

- the title of the IFRS;
- when applicable, that the change in accounting policy is made in accordance with its transitional provisions;
  - the nature of the change in accounting policy;
  - when applicable, a description of the transitional provisions;
- when applicable, the transitional provisions that might have an effect on future periods;
  - for the current period and each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the adjustment:
- the amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, to the extent practicable;
- if retrospective application required is impracticable for a particular prior period, or for periods before those presented, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the change in accounting policy has been applied.

As a result of the uncertainties inherent in business activities, many items in financial statements cannot be measured with precision but can only be estimated. Estimation involves judgements based on the latest available, reliable information. For example, estimates may be required of:

De required on
bad debts;
inventory obsolescence;
the fair value of financial assets or financial liabilities;
the useful lives of, or expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in,
depreciable assets;
warranty obligations.

A change in the measurement basis applied is a change in an accounting policy, and is not a change in an

accounting estimate.
When it is difficult to
distinguish a change
in an accounting
policy from a change
in an

accounting estimate, the change is treated as a change in an accounting estimate. The effect of a change in an accounting estimate, other han a change

shall be recognised prospectively by including it in profit or loss in

- (a) the period of the change, if the change affects that period only; or
  - (b) the period of the change and future periods, if the change affects both.

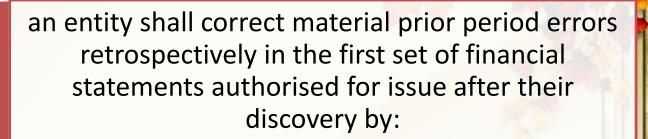
To the extent that a change in an accounting estimate gives rise to changes in assets and liabilities, or relates to an item of equity, it shall be recognised by adjusting the carrying amount of the related asset, liability or equity item in the period of the change.

#### Disclosure

An entity shall disclose the nature and amount of a change in an accounting estimate that has an effect in the current period or is expected to have an effect in future periods, except for the disclosure of the effect on future periods when it is impracticable to estimate that effect.

If the amount of the effect in future periods is not disclosed because estimating it is impracticable, an entity shall disclose that fact.

#### **Errors**



(a) restating the comparative amounts for the prior period(s) presented in which the error occurred;

(b) if the error occurred before the earliest prior period presented, restating the opening balances of assets, liabilities and equity for the earliest prior period presented.

### Disclosure of prior period errors

In applying paragraph 42, an entity shall disclose the follow

- the nature of the prior period error;
- for each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the correction:

for each financial statement line item affected; and if IAS 33 applies to the entity, for basic and diluted earnings per share;

- the amount of the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented; and
- if retrospective restatement is impracticable for a particular prior period, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the error has been corrected.

