

IASB invites nominations for working group to analyse insurance issues

In the coming weeks, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) plans to reactivate Phase 2 of its Insurance project. In consultation with the Trustees of the IASC Foundation, the IASB is forming a small group of senior insurance professionals to help it analyse the issues. This group will consist of senior financial executives who are involved in financial reporting and others. The working group will have about fifteen members. In addition, four IASB members will participate in the working group's activities.

The IASB is seeking nominations for consideration as members of this group. The table below outlines how the group might be composed to incorporate the relevant backgrounds for this topic:

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| 3 or 4 | Life Insurers | 3 or 4 | General Insurers |
| 1 | Reinsurer | 2 | Auditors |
| 1 | Actuary | 2 | Financial Analysts |
| 1 | Academic | | |

The IASB will also invite insurance and securities regulators to participate as observers. The IASB expects to receive more nominations than places, and unfortunately cannot therefore guarantee that every nominee will be invited to join the advisory group. The IASB does not generally reimburse travel and other expenses of advisory group members.

The IASB believes that it has an opportunity for a fresh look at financial reporting by insurance companies. Although the IASB's predecessor produced an Issues Paper and a Draft Statement of Principles and the IASB itself has discussed the project at many Board meetings, other priorities forced the IASB to suspend work following the January 2003 meeting. Therefore, the IASB will regard the past work as a useful resource, but will not feel bound by it. The only restrictions on a fresh look are the IASB's *Framework* and the general principles established in the IASB's existing standards.

The IASB is forming this group of insurance professionals to provide specialised expertise, and members of the group should be intimately involved in financial reporting at a senior level. Members should also be willing to set aside their existing practices in favour of a

common standard of the best financial reporting. The IASB can learn from national or industry practice, but should not be constrained by it.

The IASB invites nominations to participate in this working group. Please send nominations, and address any questions, to the IASB's Director of Research, Wayne Upton. The IASB hopes to receive all nominations before 31 May and to schedule a meeting of the working group in late June or early July.

Enquiries:

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Working party on financial instruments

On 31 March, the IASB announced its intention to set up a similar working group on financial instruments. The IASB will announce details in due course.