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The purpose of this publication is to briefly describe key regulatory and professional developments that have recently occurred in the field of accounting and to provide links to locations where additional information can be found on each topic. Readers seeking additional information about a topic should review the information referred to in the hyperlinks and not rely solely on the descriptions included in this communication.

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Related FASB and AICPA Exposure Drafts on Real Estate

On February 20, 2003, the FASB and the AICPA's Accounting Standards Executive Committee each issued related exposure drafts: (1) a proposed SFAS, *Accounting for Real Estate Time-Sharing Transactions*, and (2) a proposed SOP, *Accounting for Real Estate Time-Sharing Transactions*, respectively.

Proposed SFAS

The proposed SFAS would amend SFAS No. 66, *Accounting for Sales of Real Estate*, and SFAS No. 67, *Accounting for Costs and Initial Rental Operations of Real Estate Projects*, to (1) exclude the accounting for real estate time-sharing transactions from their scope and (2) state that the accounting for such transactions is addressed in an AICPA SOP on that subject.

Proposed SOP

The proposed SOP addresses the accounting for the sale of real estate time-sharing interests, including how revenue should be recognized, how allowances for uncollectible receivables should be determined, and what kinds of selling costs may be deferred.

Other Information

Provisions of any final pronouncements would be effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2004, with earlier application encouraged.

Both exposure drafts and a related announcement are available on the FASB's website at <http://www.fasb.org/news/nr022003.shtml> and the AICPA's website at http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/acctstd/edo/timeshare_2003_0204.asp. Comments on each exposure draft should be received by its respective issuer by April 30, 2003.

Further information about the FASB is available on its website at <http://www.fasb.org>. Further information about AcSEC is available on the AICPA's website at <http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/acctstd/index.htm>.

Note: Conclusions of the FASB are subject to change at future Board meetings and generally do not affect current accounting requirements until an official position (Statement or Interpretation) is issued. Official positions of the FASB are determined only after extensive deliberation and due process, including a formal vote by written ballot to issue a Statement or Interpretation.

GASB Exposure Drafts on Postemployment Benefits and Plans

On February 14, 2003, the GASB issued two related exposure drafts of proposed GASB Statements: (1) *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* and (2) *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*.

Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions Exposure Draft

This proposal would require state and local governments to:

- Measure and disclose the cost of postemployment benefits other than pensions (commonly called OPEBs; e.g., health care benefits and life insurance) on the accrual basis of accounting in periods that approximate employees' years of service
- Provide information about the actuarial accrued liabilities for promised benefits associated with past services and about the funding status of such benefits
- Provide certain other information that is deemed useful in assessing a government's future cash flows.

Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans Exposure Draft

This proposal addresses accounting and financial reporting from the perspective of the OPEB plan.

Other Information

As discussed more fully in the exposure drafts, the proposed effective dates would depend on a government's total annual revenues in the first fiscal year ending after June 15, 2003.

Both exposure drafts and a related news release are available on the GASB's website at <http://www.gasb.org/news/nr022003.html>. Comments should be received by the GASB by April 30, 2003.

Further information about the GASB is available on its website at <http://www.gasb.org>.

Note: Conclusions of the GASB are subject to change at future Board meetings and generally do not affect current accounting requirements until an official position (Statement or Interpretation) is issued. Official positions of the GASB are determined only after extensive deliberation and due process, including a formal vote by written ballot to issue a Statement or Interpretation.

IASB February 2003 Meetings

At its February 19-21, 2003 meeting in London, the IASB took the following actions:

- Discussed various issues and reached certain tentative conclusions in the following projects:
 - Improvements to Existing IAS (The Board completed its deliberations on this project and requested its staff to prepare a draft of a final IFRS for its review and approval)
 - Convergence Topics
 - Income Statements
 - Revenue Recognition
 - Business Combinations (phase II)
 - Insurance (phase I)
- Heard a report on various matters discussed at the February 2003 meeting of the IASB's International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee.

The IASB also met with its Standards Advisory Council on February 24-25 to discuss the status of certain IASB projects, particularly those relating to financial instruments.

The next IASB meeting is scheduled for March 19-21, 2003 in London.

Further information about the IASB can be obtained on its website at <http://www.iasb.org.uk/cmt/0001.asp> and on Deloitte & Touche's IAS Plus website at <http://www.iasplus.com/index.htm>.

Recent Deloitte & Touche Publications

Deloitte & Touche recently released the following publications, which are particularly relevant to public companies.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Conditions for Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures pertains to the new SEC rules that address public companies' disclosure or release of certain financial information that is calculated and presented on the basis of methodologies other than in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This publication not only summarizes the rules, but also provides clarification on certain provisions based on discussions with the SEC staff after the rules were issued.

The publication, which is available at <http://www.deloitte.com/vc/0.1639.sid%253D2002%2526cid%253D11197.00.html>, will be updated, as necessary, to reflect any further clarifying guidance issued by the SEC that could change certain of its staff's previously expressed views.

Audit Committee Resource Guide

The Audit Committee Resource Guide focuses on the role and responsibilities of audit committees in light of the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and new and proposed rules of the SEC and the various stock exchanges.

The guide, which can be obtained at <http://www.deloitte.com/vc/0.1639.sid%253D2006%2526cid%253D11156.00.html>, also identifies resources and tools developed by Deloitte & Touche and other professional service organizations and trade groups that can be used to implement the new or proposed requirements.

Deloitte & Touche Guidance Materials on Use of IASB Standards

In recognition of the growing use of IASB standards, Deloitte & Touche has developed the following materials.

Table on Use of IASB Standards by Country

A recently updated table shows, for each major country, whether IASB standards currently are required, permitted, or prohibited as the basis for the primary financial statements of listed companies.

The table, which can be obtained at <http://www.iasplus.com/country/useias.htm>, indicates, for example, that approximately 65 countries currently require or are in the process of requiring such standards.

Guide on Implementation of IASB Standards by Certain Manufacturers

Though primarily aimed at specific types of companies, *Manufacturing: The Future for UK Automotive and Aerospace Industries under IAS*, contains guidance that may be useful to companies in other countries and in other industries that are also assessing the impact of implementing IASB standards. This publication is available at <http://www.iasplus.com/dtppubs/manufact.pdf>.

Study on Business Issues Related to Adoption of IASB Standards

IAS: Healthcheck 2002 identifies and discusses various business issues that companies may face when adopting IASB standards. The issues relate to such areas as:

- Treasury management
- Debt covenants and financing
- Management compensation
- Human resources and training
- Information technology systems
- Investor relations.

The study can be accessed at <http://www.iasplus.com/dttpubs/healthcheck.pdf>.

Abbreviations Frequently Used in *Accounting Roundup*

AcSEC	Accounting Standards Executive Committee	IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
AICPA	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants	IFAC	International Federation of Accountants
APB	Accounting Principles Board	IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
EITF	Emerging Issues Task Force	PCAOB	Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board	SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
FSP	FASB Staff Position	SFAS	Statement of Financial Accounting Standards
GASB	Governmental Accounting Standards Board	SOP	Statement of Position
IAS	International Accounting Standard	TPA	Technical Practice Aid

Deloitte Accounting Research Tool Available

Deloitte & Touche is making available, on a subscription basis, access to its online library of accounting and financial disclosure literature. Called the Deloitte Accounting Research Tool (DART), the library includes material from the FASB, the EITF, the AICPA, and the SEC, in addition to Deloitte & Touche's own accounting manual and other interpretative accounting guidance.

Updated every business day, DART has an intuitive design and navigation system, which, together with its powerful search features, enable users to quickly locate information anytime, from any computer. Additionally, DART subscribers receive periodic e-mails highlighting recent additions to the DART library.

For more information, including subscription details and an online DART demonstration, visit <http://www.deloitte.com/us/dart>.