

# Insights into MFRS 8

## MFRS 8 Principles in brief

For entities that operate in a variety of classes of business, geographical locations, regulatory or economic environments or markets, high quality management accounts are essential. They enable management to monitor performance, allocate resources and devise business and market strategies. MFRS 8 'Operating Segments' requires much of this management information for public listed entities to be published externally so that investors, analysts and other users of entities' financial statements can review an entity's operations from the same perspective as management.

Our 'Insights into MFRS 8' series considers key implementation issues and provides interpretational guidance in certain problematic areas. We also include several examples illustrating the Standard's requirements.

This introductory article summarises the requirements and scope of MFRS 8 and explains the key steps in determining reportable segments.



## Summary of requirements

**MFRS 8 requires an entity to disclose information to enable users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business activities in which it engages and the economic environments in which it operates.**

**MFRS 8 requires an entity to report financial and descriptive information about its reportable segments:**

- **reportable segments are operating segments or aggregations of operating segments that meet specified criteria**
- **operating segments are components of an entity about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker (CODM) in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance.**

**MFRS 8 specifies how an entity should report information about its operating segments in annual financial statements and, as a consequential amendment to MFRS 134 'Interim Financial Reporting', requires an entity to report selected information about its operating segments in interim financial reports.**

**Generally, financial information is required to be reported on the same basis as is used internally for evaluating operating segment performance and deciding how to allocate resources to operating segments. MFRS 8 requires reconciliations of total reportable segment revenues, total profit or loss, total assets, liabilities and other amounts disclosed for reportable segments to corresponding amounts in the entity's financial statements.**

**MFRS 8 sets out requirements for related entity-wide disclosures about products and services, geographical areas and major customers. It also requires an entity to report information about the revenues derived from its products or services (or groups of similar products and services), about the countries in which it earns revenues and holds non-current assets, and about major customers, regardless of whether that information is used by management in making operating decisions.**

**MFRS 8 does not require an entity to report information that is not prepared for internal use if the necessary information is not available and the cost to develop it would be excessive.**

**If an entity changes the structure of its internal organisation that results in a change in its reportable segments, then the corresponding amounts should be restated unless, for each item of disclosure, the information is unavailable or the cost to develop it is excessive. Where comparative information has been restated, this fact should be disclosed.**

## Objectives

The objective of MFRS 8 is set out in a core principle. This principle requires an entity to disclose information to enable users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business activities in which it engages and the economic environments in which it operates.

Operating segments are determined based on the structure of the organisation and how information is reported to management. MFRS 8 does not prescribe the measurement policies for the information to be disclosed. Instead the amounts disclosed are mainly based on the information presented to management. This is generally known as ‘the management approach’ or ‘through the eyes of management’.

### The management approach

The MASB decided to implement a management approach in the Standard because:

- it gives consistency between what is reported to users and what is reported internally to management, enabling users to see how the entity is structured to reflect the risks and opportunities that management believe are important
- the ability to see segment information ‘through the eyes of management’ enhances users’ ability to predict actions or reactions of management that can significantly affect the entity’s prospects for future cash flows
- segment information is more consistent with information reported elsewhere in the annual report, for example in a management commentary, and
- the incremental cost of producing segment information is lower because it is based on the information already presented to management.

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# Scope of MFRS 8

The disclosure requirements of MFRS 8 are limited to entities within its scope. However, other entities may, in certain circumstances, need to identify operating segments in accordance with MFRS 8 in order to comply with the requirements of other standards (see more details below).

## Identifying entities within the scope of MFRS 8

MFRS 8 applies to entities that prepare financial statements, and:

- whose equity or debt securities are traded in a public market, or
- that file, or are in the process of filing, financial statements with a securities commission or other regulatory organisation for the purposes of issuing any class of instruments in a public market.

This applies to both consolidated financial statements of a group with a parent and the separate or individual financial statements of an entity.

MFRS 8 clarifies what is meant by a 'public' market and makes it clear this includes 'over-the-counter' markets. It also states a parent entity that does not have publicly traded securities is not within the scope of MFRS 8, even if it has a subsidiary or investment in another entity that has issued listed securities.

If a financial report in the scope of MFRS 8 contains both consolidated financial statements as well as the parent's separate financial statements, segment information is required only in the consolidated financial statements.

Some entities outside the mandatory scope of MFRS 8 may decide to disclose segment information regardless. If this happens but the entity chooses to disclose information about segments that does not comply fully with MFRS 8, it must not describe the information as segment information. An alternative heading should be given to the disclosures.

## Implications for all entities, including those outside the scope of MFRS 8

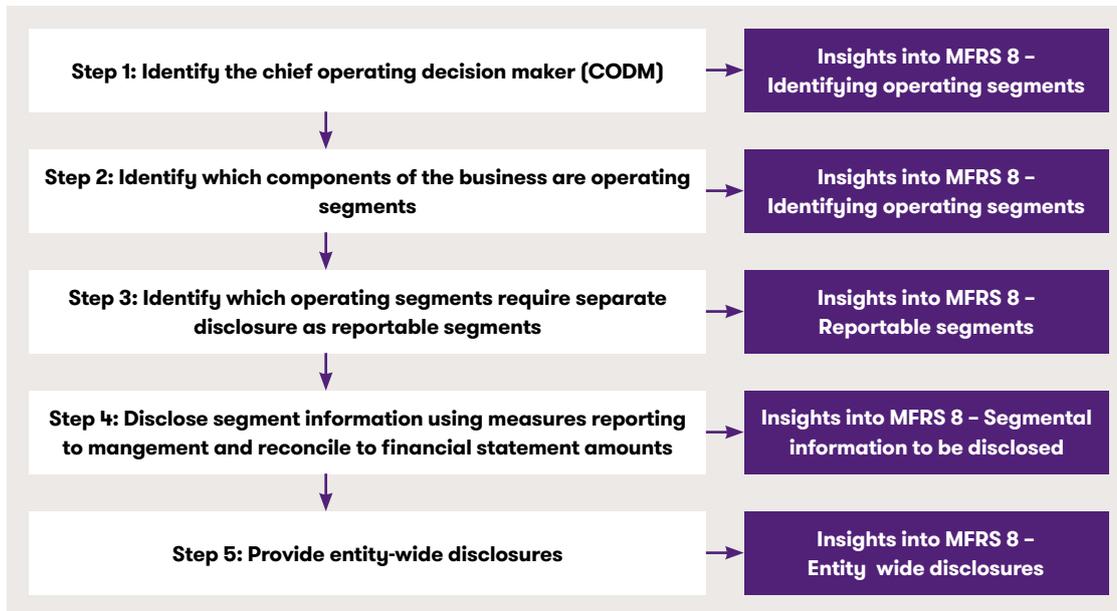
Although entities outside the scope of MFRS 8 are not subject to its disclosure requirements, they must still use the guidance to identify operating segments when identifying cash generating units (CGUs) or groups of CGUs to which goodwill or mineral resource exploration and evaluation assets are allocated.

A number of other standards refer to segment information or the identification of segments in accordance with MFRS 8. In some circumstances, additional disclosures relating to segments are only required for entities within the scope of MFRS 8. However, in some situations, the requirements of other standards relating to segments apply to all entities, including those outside the scope of MFRS 8.

In a later article we will discuss the interaction of other standards with MFRS 8 and we will highlight additional requirements of other MFRS for entities that fall within the scope of MFRS 8.

## Steps to determine reportable segments – summary

The process for determining operating segments and identifying which of those are reportable separately is summarised in the flow chart below.



How to address each of these five steps will be explained in subsequent articles.

## How we can help

We hope you find the information in this article helpful in giving you some insight into MFRS 8. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised, please speak to your usual Grant Thornton contact.

