

POLICY STATEMENT TO REGULATION 52-112 RESPECTING NON-GAAP AND OTHER FINANCIAL MEASURES DISCLOSURE

Introduction

Regulation 52-112 respecting Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures Disclosure (chapter V-1.1, r. 28.1) (the “Regulation”) sets out specific disclosure requirements for non-GAAP financial measures, non-GAAP ratios, and other financial measures, which are capital management measures, supplementary financial measures, and total of segments measures, as defined in the Regulation (together the “specified financial measures”). The purpose of this Policy Statement (the “Policy Statement”) is to explain how the provincial and territorial regulatory authorities interpret or apply certain provisions of the Regulation. This Policy Statement includes explanations, discussions, and examples of various parts of the Regulation. This Policy Statement contains, as Appendix A, a flow chart outlining the process for assessing specified financial measures. The flow chart is for illustrative purposes only and, in all cases, reference should be made to the precise language of the Regulation.

Interpretation of “made available to the public” and “filed”, “delivered” or “submitted”

Documents made available to the public include not only information filed on SEDAR+ but also information on a website and disclosure provided through social media platforms.

The Regulation uses the terms “filed” and “submitted”. This Policy Statement also uses the term “delivered”. Material that is filed in a jurisdiction will be made available to the public in that jurisdiction, subject to the provisions of securities legislation in the local jurisdiction. Material that is delivered to a regulator or securities regulatory authority, or submitted to a recognized exchange, but not filed, is not generally required under securities legislation to be made available to the public.

Document

A document is any written communication, including a communication prepared and transmitted in electronic form, e.g., a website, but for the purposes of the Regulation, does not include a transcript of an oral statement.

Entity

An “entity” may include, but is not limited to:

- an issuer, meaning a person that has outstanding securities, is issuing securities, or proposes to issue securities;
- an affiliate or a subsidiary of an issuer;
- a company, such as a corporation, incorporated association, incorporated syndicate or other incorporated organization;
- a person, such as a partnership, unincorporated association, unincorporated syndicate, unincorporated organization or a trust;
- a group of assets of an issuer for which financial statements are prepared, whether or not the asset or group of assets are held in a legal entity; or
- two or more issuers or portions of an issuer that are not all linked by a parent-subsidiary relationship, typically referred to as a “combined entity”.

An entity is not necessarily a legal person.

Specified Financial Measures Disclosed by an Issuer and Financial Statements of an Entity

An issuer may disclose a specified financial measure that is derived from its financial statements or the financial statements of another entity. The following are examples of financial statements of an entity, other than the issuer’s financial statements, that a specified financial measure may be derived from:

- financial statements of a reverse takeover acquirer or financial statements of an acquired business included in a document filed by an issuer;
- financial statements that are required to be filed with or delivered to a regulator or a securities regulatory authority, or made reasonably available to each holder of a security acquired, as required by a provision of *Regulation 45-106 respecting Prospectus Exemptions* (chapter V-1.1, r. 21) (“Regulation 45-106”);
- financial statements of a subsidiary, joint venture or associate for which summarized financial information is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements of the issuer;
- financial statements of an investment entity’s investments, when supplemental financial information is included in the financial statements or the management’s discussion & analysis (the “MD&A”) of the investment entity; and
- financial statements of an entity with which the issuer completed a transaction that are included in a filing statement or a listing document.

Financial Measures

The Regulation applies when a specified financial measure is disclosed in a document. If the financial measure is identified only by label without a corresponding numerical amount or measure, a specified financial measure has not been disclosed and, thus, the disclosure requirements within the Regulation do not apply.

For clarity, the Regulation does not apply to qualitative disclosure of targets, benchmarks or covenants that are not accompanied by the disclosure of a financial numerical amount for the measure.

Financial Reporting Framework, Accounting Principles, and Accounting Policies

In Canada, there are different financial reporting frameworks for different types of entities. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (“GAAP”) is a common term used to refer to a financial reporting framework that comprises the accounting principles that are generally accepted in a jurisdiction. *Regulation 52-107 respecting Accounting and Auditing Principles* (chapter V-1.1, r. 25) prescribes, among other things, acceptable accounting principles, such as International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”).

The application of accounting principles often requires specific accounting policies. Accounting policies encompass all accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements, not just those which are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Misleading disclosure still prohibited

Compliance with the Regulation does not relieve an issuer from other obligations under securities legislation. Specifically, an issuer may not present or disclose a specified financial measure in a way that would be misleading.

Section 1 - Definition of a non-GAAP financial measure

Common terms used to identify non-GAAP financial measures include “adjusted earnings”, “adjusted EBITDA”, “free cash flow”, “pro forma earnings”, “cash earnings”, “distributable cash”, “adjusted funds from operations”, “earnings before non-recurring items” and measures presented on a constant-currency basis. Many of these terms lack standard meanings. Issuers across a spectrum of industries, and within the same industry, may use the same term to refer to different compositions.

The following are examples of measures that are not captured by the definition:

- Amounts that do not depict historical or future “financial performance”, “financial position” or “cash flow”, which relate to elements of the primary financial statements as defined in the Regulation, such as share price, market capitalization, or credit rating;
- Financial information that does not have the effect of providing a financial measure that is different from a financial measure presented in the primary financial statements, such as the addition or subtraction of an identical line item, or a subtotal or

total originating from multiple periods of primary financial statements. For example, rolling 12-month results or fourth quarter revenue calculated by subtracting year-to-date third quarter revenue from the annual revenue presented in primary financial statements; or

- A financial measure which does not exclude an amount that is included in, or include an amount that is excluded from, the composition of the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements of the entity. For example, assets under management representing the total market value of invested assets managed by the issuer which are beneficially owned by clients and not reported in the primary financial statements of the issuer.

Component Information

When an issuer presents a financial statement line item in a more granular way outside the financial statements, otherwise known as a disaggregation, that number is a component of a line item that has been calculated in accordance with the accounting policies used to prepare the line item presented in the financial statements. Such a financial measure would not be a non-GAAP financial measure because it is not a financial measure which excludes an amount that is included in, or includes an amount that is excluded from, the composition of the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements of the entity. However, even though such a measure would not be a non-GAAP financial measure, it may still meet the definition of a supplementary financial measure.

For example, an issuer may disclose sales per square foot on a periodic basis to depict its financial performance. When the sales figure, included in sales per square foot, is extracted directly from the primary financial statements or is a component of such line item (when the component is calculated in accordance with the issuer's accounting policies used to prepare the line item presented in the financial statements), the "sales per square foot" measure would not meet the definition of a non-GAAP ratio but would meet the definition of a supplementary financial measure. However, if the sales figure is not calculated in accordance with the issuer's accounting policies, the "sales per square foot" measure in this example would meet the definition of a non-GAAP ratio.

Combinations of Line Items

A financial measure calculated by combining financial information that originates from different line items from the primary financial statements would meet the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure if the measure depicts financial performance, financial position or cash flow, unless that resulting measure is separately disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures that are Forward-looking Information

Forward-looking information for which there is an equivalent historical financial measure disclosed in the financial statements does not meet the definition of a non-GAAP

financial measure. Therefore, section 7 of the Regulation does not apply to measures such as future capital management measures and future total of segments measures.

In addition, if, for example, revenue is disclosed on a forward-looking basis using the accounting policies applied by the issuer in its latest set of financial statements (i.e., revenue as presented in the primary financial statements adjusted only for assumptions about future economic conditions and courses of action), this forward-looking revenue is not a non-GAAP financial measure. Conversely, if an issuer discloses EBITDA on a forward-looking basis and does not disclose this financial measure in the financial statements, this forward-looking EBITDA does meet the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information.

Issuers are reminded that forward-looking information is subject to the disclosure requirements in Parts 4A and 4B and section 5.8 of *Regulation 51-102 respecting Continuous Disclosure Obligations* (chapter V-1.1, r. 24) (“Regulation 51-102”).

Non-Financial Information

For clarity, the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure does not include non-financial information such as the following:

- number of units;
- number of subscribers;
- volumetric information;
- number of employees or workforce by type of contract or geographical location;
- environmental measures such as greenhouse gas emissions;
- information on major shareholdings;
- acquisition or disposal of the issuer’s own shares; and
- total number of voting rights.

The above list is not exhaustive.

We remind issuers that while non-financial information is not subject to the requirements of the Regulation, non-financial information is subject to various disclosure requirements under applicable securities legislation, including the requirement not to disclose misleading information.

Section 1 – Definition of primary financial statements

The Regulation uses the terms “statement of financial position”, “statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income”, “statement of changes in equity”, and

“statement of cash flows”, to describe the primary financial statements. Issuers may use titles for the statements other than those terms if the titles comply with the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements. For example, an issuer may use the title of “balance sheet” instead of “statement of financial position”.

Section 1 - Definition of a supplementary financial measure

Component Information

An issuer that operates in the retail industry may disclose financial results for “same-store sales” each reporting period. When same-store sales, a component of overall sales, is calculated in accordance with the accounting policies used to prepare the sales line item presented in the primary financial statements, it would not meet the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure. However, since in this example “same-store sales” is used by the issuer to depict financial performance by reporting sales performance from period to period, it would meet the definition of a supplementary financial measure.

Conversely, when the measure is not calculated in accordance with the issuer’s accounting policies, such measure would meet the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure. For example, if the sales figure in “same-store sales” is sales presented on a constant-dollar basis, this constant-dollar sales figure meets the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure since it excludes amounts (i.e., the effect of foreign exchange differences) that are included in the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements (i.e., sales). As a result, the “constant dollar same-store sales” measure in this example would meet the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure or the “constant dollar same-store sales per square foot” measure would meet the definition of a non-GAAP ratio.

If an issuer discloses a financial measure that is a component of a financial statement line item to explain how the financial statement line item changed from period to period (in dollars or as a percentage, for instance), such a measure would not meet the definition of a supplementary financial measure if the measure is not intended to be disclosed on a periodic basis. For example, if an issuer experienced an unexpected increase in administrative expenses, it may analyze the reasons for changes in administrative expenses by, among other things, disclosing information about its insurance expense, a component of overall administrative expenses. In this example, insurance expense would not meet the definition of a supplementary financial measure because, among other things, the insurance expense was calculated in accordance with the accounting policies used to prepare the administrative expenses line item presented in the primary financial statements.

Periodic Basis

An element of the definition of a supplementary financial measure is that it is disclosed or is intended to be disclosed on a periodic basis. A measure will not be precluded from being considered a supplementary financial measure the first time it is disclosed if the

measure is intended to be disclosed on an ongoing basis (e.g., in future quarterly and/or annual disclosures).

Financial Ratios

A financial ratio that is not a non-GAAP ratio would typically meet the definition of supplementary financial measure because such ratio is often disclosed on a periodic basis to depict historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flow.

Financial ratios contain at least one financial component (either the numerator or the denominator).

Examples include, but are not limited to the following ratios:

- liquidity ratios such as the current ratio;
- solvency ratios such as the debt-to-equity ratio;
- profitability ratios such as the return on equity ratio or revenue per user; and
- activity ratios such as the inventory turnover ratio.

Section 2 – Application to reporting issuers

Websites and Social Media

The Regulation applies to a reporting issuer in respect of its disclosure, on a website and social media, of a specified financial measure.

A reporting issuer should not disclose a specified financial measure using social media, if it is unable to include or incorporate by reference all the required disclosure.

Section 3 – Application to issuers that are not reporting issuers

The Regulation applies to an issuer that is not a reporting issuer in respect of its disclosure of a specified financial measure in a document if the document is filed with a regulator or a securities regulatory authority in connection with a distribution made in reliance on the offering memorandum exemption under Regulation 45-106, including the following documents:

- offering memorandum; and
- offering memorandum marketing materials.

Subparagraphs 4(1)(c)(i) and (ii) – Mineral projects

The Regulation does not apply to disclosure required under *Regulation 43-101 respecting Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects* (chapter V-1.1, r. 15)

("Regulation 43-101") related to an issuer's material mineral project. For example, item 22 of Form 43-101F1 *Technical Report* requires an issuer to disclose an economic analysis that includes certain financial measures. Item 5.4 of Form 51-102F2 *Annual Information Form* requires an issuer to disclose certain measures such as capital and operating costs, and annual cash flow, net present value, internal rate of return, and payback period disclosed in an economic analysis.

The Regulation does not apply to these measures because they are specifically required to be disclosed under Regulation 43-101. However, if an issuer discloses a financial measure that is not specifically required to be disclosed under Regulation 43-101, for example, EBITDA, it may be considered a specified financial measure and, thus, is within the scope of the Regulation.

Subparagraph 4(1)(c)(iii) – Oil and gas metrics

The Regulation does not apply to disclosure required under *Regulation 51-101 respecting Standards of Disclosure for Oil and Gas Activities* (chapter V-1.1, r. 23) ("Regulation 51-101"). However, disclosures of oil and gas metrics that are made under section 5.14 of Regulation 51-101 are subject to the requirements of the Regulation because such disclosure is made on a voluntary basis.

Subparagraph 4(1)(d)(i) – Reports prepared by a person other than the issuer or entity that is the subject of the specified financial measure

The Regulation does not apply to reports that are prepared by a person other than the issuer or entity that is the subject of the specified financial measure. An example is an analyst report disclosed by an issuer (i.e., either through posting a copy of this analyst report or by providing a link to such a report on its website), where this report has been prepared by a person other than the issuer (i.e., a "third-party") and contains financial measures that provide information about the issuer itself (i.e., "the subject of the specified financial measure").

Examples of these "third-party" reports include analyst reports, fairness opinions and valuation reports. These reports may also include those filed under subparagraphs 9.1(1)(a)(vi) or 9.2(a)(v) of *Regulation 41-101 respecting General Prospectus Requirements* (chapter V-1.1, r. 14), subparagraphs 4.1(1)(a)(vi) or 4.2(a)(iv) of *Regulation 44-101 respecting Short Form Prospectus Distributions* (chapter V-1.1, r. 16), item 2.5 of Form 51-102F4 *Business Acquisition Report* or Part 6 of *Regulation 61-101 respecting Protection of Minority Security Holders in Special Transactions* (chapter V-1.1, r. 33).

However, when an issuer discloses a specified financial measure that has been taken from such a report prepared by a person other than the issuer, this specified financial measure is within the scope of the Regulation.

Subparagraph 4(1)(d)(iii) – Pro forma financial statements

The Regulation does not apply to pro-forma financial statements included in a filing required under securities legislation, such as pro-forma financial statements required to be included in a business acquisition report under Regulation 51-102.

The Regulation does apply to pro-forma financial statements included in a filing made on a voluntary basis (i.e., it is not explicitly required under securities legislation).

Paragraph 4(1)(e) – Financial measures required under law or by an SRO

Paragraph 4(1)(e) includes financial measures disclosed in accordance with prescribed (i.e., mandatory) requirements under applicable securities legislation, for example, disclosure of earnings coverage ratios prescribed by item 9 of Form 41-101F1 *Information Required in a Prospectus*. Voluntary disclosure that is permitted but not required by other securities legislation is subject to the requirements of the Regulation.

The Regulation also does not apply to a financial measure that is disclosed in accordance with the laws of a jurisdiction of Canada, or jurisdiction outside Canada, including governments, governmental authorities and SROs. This exclusion is, however, only applicable in situations when a financial measure is required to be disclosed and the law specifically specifies its composition.

If an issuer discloses a financial measure that is prepared in accordance with voluntary guidance published by a government, governmental authority or SRO that is applicable to the issuer, then the financial measure is subject to the requirements of this Regulation.

Paragraph 4(1)(f) – Specified financial measure where its calculation is derived from a financial covenant in a written agreement

The Regulation does not apply to an issuer in respect of disclosure of a specified financial measure where its calculation is derived from a financial covenant in a written agreement, for example, a specified financial measure whose calculation and composition are derived from a financial covenant within a credit agreement.

Paragraph 4(1)(g) – Specified financial measure disclosed in a document by a registered firm that is intended to be, or is reasonably likely to be, made available to a client or a prospective client of the registered firm

The Regulation does not apply to an issuer that is a registered firm in respect of disclosure of a specified financial measure if (i) the document in which the disclosure is made is intended to be, or is reasonably likely to be, made available to a client or a prospective client of the registered firm, and (ii) the measure does not relate to the registered firm's financial performance, financial position or cash flow. Examples would include a report prepared and disclosed by a registered firm, such as an analyst report which contains data and analysis of an unrelated issuer or entity.

Subsection 4(2) – Statement of Executive Compensation

In the context of Form 51-102F6 *Statement of Executive Compensation* (“Form 51-102F6”) or Form 51-102F6V *Statement of Executive Compensation – Venture Issuers* (“Form 51-102F6V”), if a financial measure is identified (e.g., adjusted net income) and the calculation is described (e.g., net income adjusted for foreign exchange gains or losses) but no financial amount is disclosed (i.e., no dollar amount), it would not be within the scope of the Regulation because a financial measure has not been disclosed, only identified and described.

If a specified financial measure that is in scope of the Regulation is disclosed in Form 51-102F6 or Form 51-102F6V (e.g., adjusted net income of \$X), as outlined in subsection 4(2) of the Regulation, only the following information is required, as applicable: the identification of the non-GAAP financial measure under paragraph 6(1)(b) and the quantitative reconciliation of the specified financial measure under clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C), paragraph 9(c) or clause 10(1)(b)(ii)(C).

Section 5 – Incorporation by reference

The Regulation allows an issuer to incorporate by reference certain disclosure, if the reference is to the issuer’s MD&A. To meet the requirement that the MD&A be available on SEDAR+ under paragraph 5(2)(c) of the Regulation, the MD&A must be filed on SEDAR+ before, or simultaneously with the document, in order for this MD&A to be used to incorporate any information by reference into the document. For example, if an issuer is filing an annual information form that includes a specified financial measure and the issuer is incorporating certain information in the MD&A by reference to satisfy the disclosure requirements of the Regulation, that MD&A would have to be filed on SEDAR+ before or simultaneously with the filing of the annual information form.

Paragraph 5(2)(b) requires the identification of the specific location of the required information in the MD&A. To comply with this requirement, identify where the required information is specifically located within the MD&A (e.g., identify the specific MD&A including a reference to the date of the MD&A, its reporting period, and the specific section or page reference within the MD&A) or provide a hyperlink to the specific section or page within the MD&A where the information is located. Issuers would not satisfy this requirement with a general hyperlink to the relevant MD&A.

The Regulation allows an issuer to incorporate by reference certain required disclosure in a news release; however, subsection 5(1) does not apply to the quantitative reconciliation requirements under clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(C), paragraph 7(2)(d) or 9(c), or clause 10(1)(b)(ii)(C) if the document that contains the specified financial measure is an earnings release filed by the issuer under section 11.4 of Regulation 51-102.

Section 6 – Non-GAAP financial measures that are historical information

Paragraph 6(1)(a) – Labelling a non-GAAP financial measure that is historical information

Any label or term used to describe a non-GAAP financial measure, or adjustments in a reconciliation, must be appropriate given the nature of information.

For example, the following are not in compliance with the labelling requirement in paragraph 6(1)(a) of the Regulation:

- labels that are the same as, or confusingly similar to, those normally used under the financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements. For example, a measure labelled “cash flows from operations” and calculated as cash flows from operating activities before changes in non-cash working capital items is confusingly similar to the term “cash flows from operating activities” specified in IAS 7 *Statement of Cash Flows*;
- labels that purport to represent “results from operating activities” or a similar title but exclude items of an operating nature, such as inventory write-downs, restructuring costs, impairment of assets used for operations and stock-based compensation;
- labels that are overly optimistic (e.g., guaranteed profit or protected returns); and
- labels that may cause confusion based on the financial measure’s composition. For example, in presenting EBITDA as a non-GAAP financial measure, it would be inappropriate to exclude amounts for items other than interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization.

The above list is not exhaustive.

Paragraph 6(1)(b) – Identification of a non-GAAP financial measure that is historical information

An issuer may satisfy the paragraph 6(1)(b) identification requirement by inserting a footnote to the non-GAAP financial measure that is disclosed in the document, with a statement similar to the following: “This is a non-GAAP financial measure. Refer to the Non-GAAP Financial Measures section of this document for more information on each non-GAAP financial measure”. The issuer should exercise judgement in assessing whether the non-GAAP financial measure should be identified with a footnote each time the measure is disclosed in the document, considering the nature and extent of the use of this measure.

Paragraph 6(1)(d) – Prominence of a non-GAAP financial measure that is historical information

Determining the relative prominence of a non-GAAP financial measure is a matter of judgment, involving consideration of the overall disclosure and the facts and circumstances in which the disclosure is made.

The presentation of a non-GAAP financial measure should not in any way confuse or obscure the presentation of the most directly comparable financial measure that is presented in the primary financial statements of the entity to which the measure relates.

The following are examples that would cause a non-GAAP financial measure to be more prominent than the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements:

- presenting a non-GAAP financial measure in the form of a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income without presenting it in the form of a reconciliation to the most directly comparable financial measure, sometimes referred to as a “single column approach”;
- omitting the most directly comparable financial measure from a news release headline or caption that includes a non-GAAP financial measure;
- presenting a non-GAAP financial measure using a style of presentation (e.g., bold, underlined, italicized, or larger font) that emphasizes the non-GAAP financial measure over the most directly comparable financial measure;
- multiple non-GAAP financial measures being used for the same or similar purpose thereby obscuring disclosure of the most directly comparable financial measure;
- providing tabular or graphical disclosure of non-GAAP financial measures without presenting an equally prominent tabular or graphical disclosure of the most directly comparable financial measures; and
- providing a discussion and analysis of a non-GAAP financial measure in a more prominent location than a similar discussion and analysis of the most directly comparable financial measure. For greater certainty, a location is not more prominent if it allows an investor who reads the document, or other material containing the non-GAAP financial measure, to be able to view the discussion and analysis of both the non-GAAP financial measure and the most directly comparable financial measure contemporaneously (e.g., within the previous, same or next page of the document).

The above list is not exhaustive.

The Regulation requires that the non-GAAP financial measure be presented with “no more prominence in the document than that of the most directly comparable financial measure” presented in the primary financial statements. If the most directly comparable financial measure is presented with “equal or greater prominence” than the non-GAAP financial measure, the requirement under paragraph 6(1)(d) of the Regulation has been met.

Paragraphs 6(1)(e), 7(2)(d), 8(c), 9(c), 10(1)(b), 11(b) – Proximity to the first instance

To prevent duplicative disclosure, an issuer may include the information required by paragraphs 6(1)(e), 7(2)(d), 8(c), 9(c), 10(1)(b), 11(b) of the Regulation in one section

of the document, unless incorporation by reference is permitted under section 5 of the Regulation. To satisfy these requirements, when the specified financial measure first appears in the document an issuer may reference, either through a footnote or in another manner, a separate section within the same document that contains the disclosure required by these paragraphs.

There may be types of documents where it is not clear when the specified financial measure first occurs or appears, for example, websites and social media. In these instances, the “first instance” disclosure requirements may be satisfied by providing a website hyperlink to where the disclosures required by paragraphs 6(1)(e), 7(2)(d), 8(c), 9(c), 10(1)(b), 11(b) of the Regulation are found (e.g., on another section of the website) with minimal to no scrolling or navigation. Hyperlinking may only be provided within a website or within a document.

Clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(A), 8(c)(iii)(A), 10(1)(b)(ii)(A) and paragraph 11(b) – Explain the composition

The composition explanation should include a clear description of how the specified financial measure is calculated. For example, we would expect an issuer to describe the type of adjustments made, such as those for “non-cash” items or the basis being used to determine the type of adjustments.

In most instances, this requirement would not be satisfied just by listing all adjustments made in calculating the measure.

It is important to consider whether any new adjustment made in the calculation of a specified financial measure might constitute a change in composition or whether the adjustment is consistent with the stated usefulness of the measure.

Clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(B), 8(c)(iii)(B) and 10(1)(b)(ii)(B) – Usefulness of a specified financial measure

The Regulation does not define the term “useful”. The term “useful” is intended to reflect how management believes that presentation of the non-GAAP financial measure provides incremental information to investors regarding the issuer’s financial position, financial performance or cash flows. The term “useful” should be considered in the context of what a person making an investment decision would consider useful.

A statement made to satisfy the requirement of clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(B), 8(c)(iii)(B) and 10(1)(b)(ii)(B) of the Regulation should

- be clear and understandable;
- be specific to the specified financial measure used, the issuer, the nature of the business and the industry (i.e., not boilerplate); and

- specifically explain how the specified financial measure is assessed and applied to decisions made by management, if applicable, and explain the reasons why the specified financial measure is useful to an investor.

Issuers should avoid making inappropriate or potentially misleading statements about the usefulness of a measure. The Regulation does not explicitly prohibit certain adjustments. However, if adjustments are not consistent with the usefulness explanation provided to address clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(B), 8(c)(iii)(B) and 10(1)(b)(ii)(B) of the Regulation, this may result in a specified financial measure that is inappropriate or misleading.

A specified financial measure may be misleading if it

- includes positive components of the most directly comparable financial measure but omits negative components (e.g., presenting a specified financial measure that excludes unrealized losses on financial instruments but includes unrealized gains); or
- excludes from an operating performance measure those operating expenses necessary to operate an issuer's business.

Clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C) and subsection 6(2) – Reconciliation of a non-GAAP financial measure

Clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C) of the Regulation requires a quantitative reconciliation between the non-GAAP financial measure and the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements. For the purpose of clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C), a quantitative reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measure is required to be the “permitted format” outlined in subsection 6(2) of the Regulation. An issuer may satisfy this requirement by providing a reconciliation in a clearly understandable way, such as a table. For purposes of presenting the reconciliation, an issuer may begin with the non-GAAP financial measure or the most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements, provided the reconciliation is presented in an understandable and consistent manner.

Most Directly Comparable Financial Measure

The Regulation does not define the “most directly comparable financial measure” and therefore the issuer needs to apply judgment in determining the most directly comparable financial measure. In applying judgment, it is important for an issuer to consider the context of how the non-GAAP financial measure is used. For example, when the non-GAAP financial measure is discussed primarily as a performance measure used in determining cash generated by the issuer, or the issuer's distribution-paying capacity, its most directly comparable financial measure will be from the statement of cash flows. In practice, earnings-based measures and cash flow-based measures are used to disclose operational performance. If it is not clear from the way the non-GAAP financial measure is used what the most directly comparable financial measure is, consideration can be given to the nature, number and materiality of the reconciling items.

Reconciling Items

The reconciliation must be quantitative, separately itemizing and explaining each significant reconciling item.

Source of Reconciling Items

When a reconciling item is taken directly from the entity's financial statements, it should be named such that an investor is able to identify the item in those financial statements, and no further explanation of that reconciling item is required.

When a reconciling item is not extracted directly from the entity's financial statements, but is, for example, a component of a line item in the entity's primary financial statements or originates from outside the primary financial statements, disclosure must be provided to satisfy clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C) and subsection 6(2) of the Regulation. Such disclosure should identify the source of the reconciling item (e.g., the financial statement line item, the financial statement note, or the externally sourced document), if not obvious, and should explain how the amount is calculated, including a discussion of any significant judgments or estimates management has made in developing the reconciling items used in the reconciliation.

Entity-Specific Inputs

Reconciling items should be calculated using entity-specific inputs. An entity may make adjustments that are accepted within an industry; however, the quantum of these adjustments should be calculated using entity-specific information. For example, an entity may make an adjustment for operating capital expenditures, which is a standard adjustment in certain industries, but the amount of the adjustment should be calculated based on the entity's operating capital expenditures, and not by using only an 'industry average' amount as the sole factor. However, adjustments should be supportable and consistent with the usefulness explanation provided to address clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(B) of the Regulation.

Level of Detail

The level of detail expected in the reconciliation depends on the nature and complexity of the reconciling items. The adjustments made from the most directly comparable financial measure should be consistent with the explanation required by clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(B) of the Regulation regarding why the information is useful to investors and if applicable, how it is used by management. Explanations should be more detailed than merely stating what the reconciling item represents and should also cover the circumstances that give rise to the particular adjustment if it is not obvious.

An "other" or "adjusting items" category to describe numerous insignificant reconciling items should not be used without further explanation as to the nature of items that comprise the category.

Gross Basis

Issuers should consider significant reconciling items on a gross basis. For example, an issuer is expected to separately itemize positive and negative adjustments unless netting is permitted under the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements.

Tax

Reconciling items are commonly presented on a pre-tax basis to ensure that investors understand the gross amount of each reconciling item. If an issuer chooses to present reconciling items on a post-tax basis then the tax effect for each reconciling item should also be disclosed.

Comparatives

For comparative non-GAAP financial measures disclosed for a previous period under paragraph 6(1)(f) of the Regulation, a reconciliation to the corresponding most directly comparable financial measure is required for that previous period.

Presentation in the Form of a Primary Financial Statement

An issuer may present adjusted financial information outside the entity's financial statements using a format that is similar to one or more of the primary financial statements, but that is not in accordance with the financial reporting framework used to prepare the entity's financial statements. In this case, the adjusted financial information would contain non-GAAP financial measures. Specifically, this would arise if an issuer presents such financial measures in a form that is similar to the following financial statements:

- a statement of financial position;
- a statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income;
- a statement of changes in equity; or
- a statement of cash flows.

Presentation of this information as a single column that excludes the most directly comparable financial measures in a separate column would not satisfy clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(C) and subsection 6(2) of the Regulation. However, this information may be presented in the form of a reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measure to the most directly comparable financial measure if such presentation shows in separate columns each of the most directly comparable financial measures, the reconciling items, and the non-GAAP financial measures. An example of the separate column approach may be used when issuers with joint ventures present a full set of non-GAAP financial statements in the form of a columnar reconciliation that shows the issuer's statement of income as presented in the primary financial statements, an additional column with

amounts related to equity accounted investees for each financial statement line item, and then a total column for each financial statement line item, which would be appropriately labelled as non-GAAP financial measures for each financial statement line item. This effectively creates the presentation of a full set of non-GAAP financial statements.

When the adjusted presentation is used as a basis for the qualitative discussions and analysis of an entity's financial performance, financial position or cash flows with greater prominence than financial measures presented in the primary financial statements, this would not be considered to be in compliance with the prominence requirement in paragraph 6(1)(d) of the Regulation.

Clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(D) and 8(c)(iii)(C) – Explanation of the reason for the change in a non-GAAP financial measure or a non-GAAP ratio

If the label or composition of the non-GAAP financial measure or non-GAAP ratio has changed from what was previously disclosed, the requirement of clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(D) and 8(c)(iii)(C) of the Regulation would apply.

Including additional reconciling items or excluding previously included reconciling items between the non-GAAP financial measure and the most directly comparable financial measure constitutes a change in composition. A clear explanation of the reason for this change is required under clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(D) and 8(c)(iii)(C) of the Regulation, which would include a restatement of comparatives, when disclosed as required under paragraph 6(1)(f) or 8(d).

A change in magnitude of an individual item would not constitute a change in composition. For example, an issuer may define adjusted earnings as earnings before impairment losses and transaction costs. Transaction costs may only be incurred every three years, such that there may be no adjustment in year two to reflect transaction costs, but there should be an explanation noting that the issuer expects that it will incur transaction costs in the future. In this example, the issuer should continue to include transaction costs in the explanation of the composition under clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(A) or 8(c)(iii)(A) to maintain consistency of the non-GAAP financial measure or non-GAAP ratio.

Given that disclosure of non-GAAP financial measures and non-GAAP ratios is optional, disclosing a particular non-GAAP financial measure or non-GAAP ratio does not create an obligation to continue disclosing that measure in future periods. If, however, an issuer replaces a non-GAAP financial measure or a non-GAAP ratio with another measure or ratio, fraction or similar representation that achieves the same objectives (that is, the usefulness information provided to comply with clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(B) and 8(c)(iii)(B) of the Regulation was consistent for both measures), the requirement of clauses 6(1)(e)(ii)(D) and 8(c)(iii)(C) of the Regulation would apply.

If the label of a non-GAAP financial measure or non-GAAP ratio has changed, while the explanation for the change may be incorporated by reference, we expect the

issuer to make it clear in the document that the label has changed in the current period from that disclosed in the prior period.

Paragraphs 6(1)(f) and 8(d) – Presenting comparative information for a non-GAAP financial measure or a non-GAAP ratio

Impracticable

Understandably, it is impracticable for an issuer to provide the comparative disclosure required by paragraph 6(1)(f) or 8(d) of the Regulation when the current period is the first period of operations and no comparative period exists. However, when a comparative period exists, we do not consider the cost or the time involved in preparing the comparative information to be sufficient rationale for an issuer to assert that it is impracticable to disclose such information.

Changes in Accounting Standards

We would not consider adoption of a new accounting standard, which would include adoption of amendments to current accounting standards, or a change in accounting policy, to be a basis for not presenting comparative period disclosure, as the composition of the non-GAAP financial measure should continue to be the same.

Adoption of new accounting standards, or changes in accounting policy, may modify measurement and recognition of transactions which will have an impact on line items, subtotals and totals over different financial periods. However, the composition of the non-GAAP financial measure itself should not change. Consider, for example, an issuer that discloses EBITDA as its non-GAAP financial measure, and in the current year adopts a new accounting standard which modifies the classification of certain expenditures from administrative expense to interest expense. While the resulting EBITDA measure will no longer include those transactions, EBITDA will continue to have the same composition, as it will comprise earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Therefore, the issuer would not be subject to the explanation of the reason for the change disclosure under clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(D).

The financial reporting framework used to prepare an entity's financial statements would determine whether comparative information is restated with adoption of a new accounting standard or change in accounting policy. For example, we expect comparative non-GAAP financial measures to be restated when a new accounting standard or policy is applied retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented. Conversely, if a new accounting standard is applied prospectively or retrospectively without restatement of a prior reporting period presented, the specified financial measures would also not be restated. In such circumstances, the issuer communicates that the comparative non-GAAP financial measures are disclosed under the previous financial reporting framework used to prepare the entity's financial statements.

In both cases, the composition of the specified financial measure has not changed, and the explanation of the reason for the change disclosure under clause 6(1)(e)(ii)(D) would not be required.

Section 7 – Non-GAAP financial measures that are forward-looking Information

Paragraph 7(2)(a) – Equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure

Under paragraph 7(2)(a) of the Regulation, an issuer must disclose, in the same document where the non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information is disclosed, the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure. The issuer must also comply with section 6 of the Regulation in respect of the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure disclosed.

The equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure must have the same composition as a non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information. For example, adjusted EBITDA would be the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure of forward-looking adjusted EBITDA.

Determining the relevant historical period to satisfy the requirement in paragraph 7(2)(a) of the Regulation is a matter of judgment, considering the time period covered by the forward-looking information and the extent to which the business of the issuer is cyclical or seasonal. For example, when an issuer discloses forward-looking information for the three months ending June 30, 20X2, the relevant period for the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure may be:

- where the business of the issuer is not seasonal, the issuer's most recent interim period for which annual financial statements or an interim financial report has been filed (e.g., the three months ended March 31, 20X2); or
- where the business of the issuer is seasonal, the comparable historical interim period to that of the financial outlook disclosed (e.g., the three months ended June 30, 20X1).

Paragraph 7(2)(c) – Prominence of a non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information

The Regulation requires a non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information to be presented with no more prominence in the document than that of the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure disclosed. This means that the non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information must be presented with no more prominence than that of the most directly comparable financial measure that is presented in the primary financial statements, as required by paragraph 6(1)(d) of the Regulation.

Paragraph 7(2)(d) – Description of any significant difference between the non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information and the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure

The requirement in paragraph 7(2)(d) of the Regulation can be addressed in a schedule or other presentation which details significant differences between the non-GAAP financial measure that is forward-looking information and the equivalent historical non-GAAP financial measure. The material factors and assumptions that were used to develop the forward-looking information, as specified in paragraph 4A.3(c) of Regulation 51-102, will complement this disclosure.

Section 8 – Non-GAAP ratios

Financial ratios may be useful in communicating aspects of an issuer's financial performance, financial position or cash flow. A ratio where a non-GAAP financial measure is used as one or more of its components is a non-GAAP ratio and subject to the disclosure requirements of section 8.

For clarity, ratios may also meet the definition of forward-looking information.

Examples of non-GAAP ratios include “adjusted EBITDA per share”, “free cash flow per ounce”, “funds flow per barrel of oil equivalent”, and the equivalent future measures “forecasted adjusted EBITDA per share”, “forecasted free cash flow per ounce” and “forecasted funds flow per barrel of oil equivalent”.

Ratios that are calculated using exclusively:

- financial measures that are presented in the primary financial statements; or
- operating measures or other measures that are not non-GAAP financial measures

would not meet the definition of a non-GAAP ratio. For example, a working capital ratio would not meet the definition if the ratio is calculated as total current assets divided by total current liabilities, as both total current assets and total current liabilities are presented in the primary financial statements. A percentage increase or decrease year over year with respect to a line item presented in the primary financial statements (or a component of such line item) for the purpose of variance analysis would also not meet the definition of a non-GAAP ratio.

Paragraphs 8(b) and 10(1)(a) – Prominence of similar financial measures

The prominence requirements in paragraphs 8(b) and 10(1)(a) of the Regulation for non-GAAP ratios and capital management measures differ from the requirements for non-GAAP financial measures in paragraph 6(1)(d) and the requirements for total of segments measures in paragraph 9(b). However, the principle that the non-GAAP ratios and capital management measures should be presented with no more prominence than that of measures from the primary financial statements remains the same.

Many non-GAAP ratios and capital management measures do not have a most directly comparable financial measure. As such, issuers should consider the disclosure of the non-GAAP ratio and capital management measure in relation to the overall disclosure of similar financial measures presented in the primary financial statements to which the non-GAAP ratio or the capital management measure relates. For example, the prominence requirement in paragraph 8(b) of the Regulation is not met if the issuer focused its disclosure on an increased gross margin percentage without giving at least equally prominent disclosure to the fact that sales have significantly decreased over the same time period, resulting in a reduction in total profit period over period. In this example, it is assumed that the financial measure of “gross margin” is not presented in the primary financial statements and therefore meets the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure. As a further example, the discussion of a “total cash cost per ounce” financial measure should not be more prominent than the discussion of cost of sales, the similar financial measure presented in the primary financial statements to which the non-GAAP ratio relates.

An issuer that discloses a capital management measure such as “adjusted debt” will meet the requirement in paragraph 10(1)(a) by giving at least equally prominent disclosure to similar financial measures presented in the primary financial statements such as short-term and long-term debt.

For a non-GAAP ratio or a capital management measure which has a most directly comparable financial measure presented in the primary financial statements, the guidance on prominence contained in this Policy Statement for paragraph 6(1)(d) should be referred to. For example, the most directly comparable financial measure of “adjusted earnings per share” is “earnings per share” and we expect that the discussion of “adjusted earnings per share” should not be more prominent than the discussion of “earnings per share”.

Subparagraph 8(c)(ii) – Disclosure of each non-GAAP financial measure that is used as a component of the non-GAAP ratio

For a non-GAAP ratio that is calculated using one or more non-GAAP financial measures, the issuer must disclose each non-GAAP financial measure and comply with section 6 of the Regulation in respect of each non-GAAP financial measure used in the calculation of the non-GAAP ratio.

Section 9 – Disclosure of total of segments measures

An entity’s financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements may permit disclosure of a broad range of segment measures, but may not necessarily specify how such financial measures should be calculated or require that these financial measures comply with the recognition and measurement requirements of the financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements of the entity.

When disclosed outside the financial statements, the disclosures made under section 9 of the Regulation should allow a reader to understand how these total of

segments measures are calculated and how they relate to measures presented in the entity's primary financial statements.

An example of a total of segments measure is when an issuer discloses adjusted EBITDA for each of its reportable segments in the notes to the financial statements: segment A, segment B, and segment C. The issuer then sums the adjusted EBITDA for each segment and discloses total "entity-adjusted EBITDA". "Entity-adjusted EBITDA" is a total of segments measure and is not presented in the primary financial statements. When this financial measure is disclosed in a document other than the financial statements, the issuer must comply with section 9 of the Regulation. For clarity, the individual segment adjusted EBITDA measure for segment A, for instance, would not be captured as a total of segments measure and would not be subject to section 9 of the Regulation.

If an issuer discloses a financial measure of a reportable segment and such financial measure is not presented or disclosed in the financial statements to which the financial measure relates, the issuer should consider whether this financial measure meets the definition of a non-GAAP financial measure.

A total of segments measure does not include a component of a financial statement line item for which the component has been calculated in accordance with the accounting policies used to prepare the line item presented in the financial statements (see *Component Information* in section 1 of the Policy Statement).

An SEC issuer may characterize a total of segments measure as a non-GAAP financial measure in compliance with SEC rules on non-GAAP financial measures and in doing so, the issuer would be complying with the requirements in section 9 of the Regulation in respect of this measure.

Section 10 – Disclosure of capital management measures

Disclosure of information that enables an individual to evaluate an entity's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital may be required by the financial reporting framework used in the preparation of the financial statements; for example, requirements in IFRS under IAS 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

How an entity manages its capital is entity-specific and the financial reporting framework used to prepare the financial statements might not prescribe a specific calculation. The accompanying disclosure required by section 10 of the Regulation allows a reader to understand how an entity calculates these capital management measures and how they relate to measures presented in the entity's primary financial statements when these measures are disclosed in documents other than the financial statements.

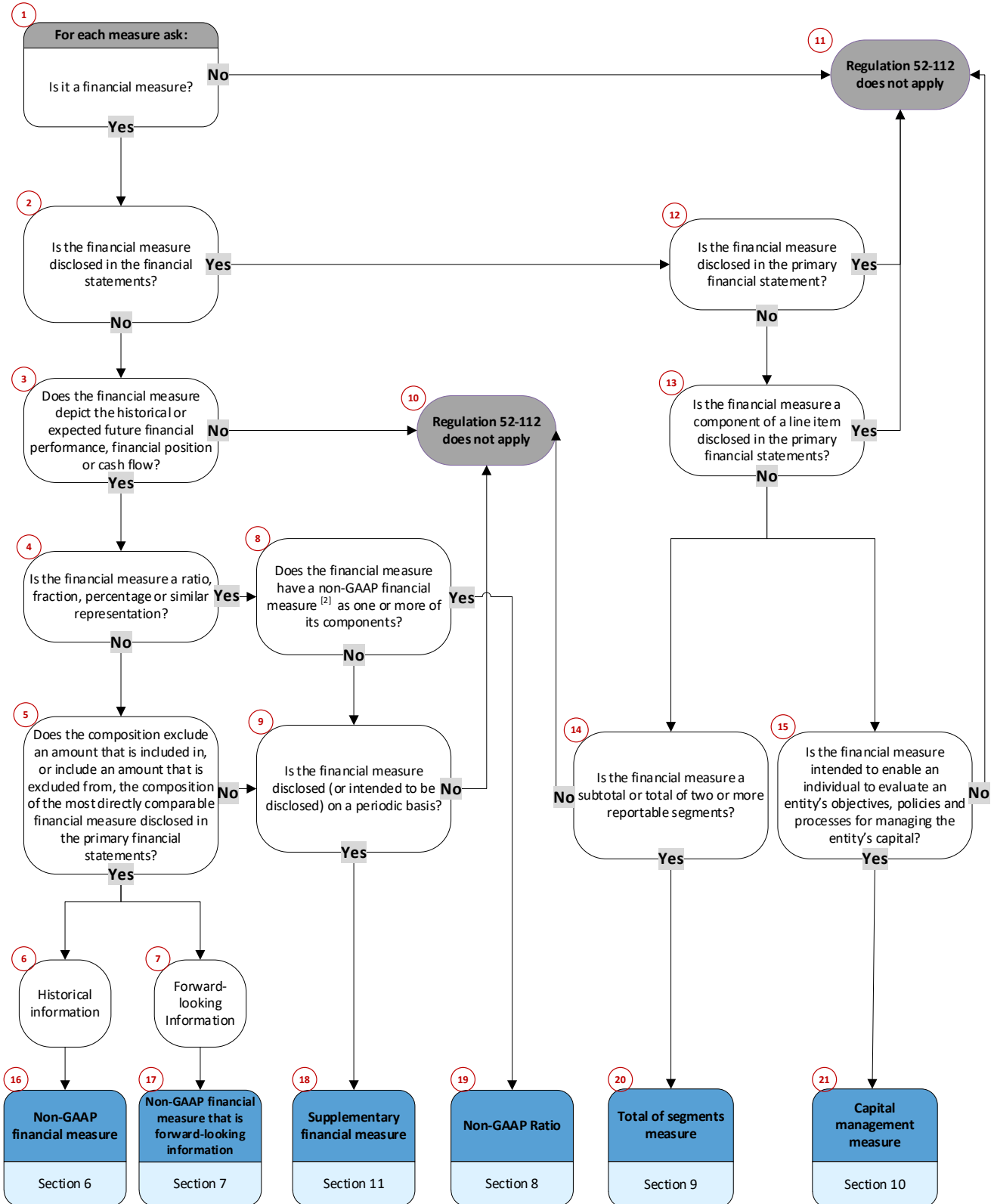
A capital management measure does not include a component of a financial statement line item for which the component has been calculated in accordance with the accounting policies used to prepare the line item presented in the financial statements (see *Component Information* in section 1 of the Policy Statement). An example of a capital management measure may include annualized adjusted EBITDA.

If the capital management measure was calculated using one or more non-GAAP financial measures, under subparagraph 10(1)(b)(i) of the Regulation the issuer must disclose each non-GAAP financial measure and comply with section 6 of the Regulation, in respect of each non-GAAP financial measure used in the calculation of the capital management measure.

Clause 10(1)(b)(ii)(A) of the Regulation requires a clear explanation of the composition, for any capital management measure that is disclosed in the form of a ratio, fraction, percentage or similar representation.

The level of detail expected in the reconciliation required under clause 10(1)(b)(ii)(C) is a matter of judgment and depends on the nature and complexity of the reconciling items required to provide the necessary context.

Appendix A – General Overview of Non-GAAP and Other Financial Measures Disclosure^[1]



[1] This is a simplified overview. To ensure compliance, users should refer to the Regulation itself and its Policy Statement.

[2] An issuer should assess each component of a financial measure presented in the form of a ratio, fraction, percentage or similar representation, to determine whether it is a non-GAAP financial measure.

Decision 2021-PDG-0034, 2021-06-30
Bulletin de l'Autorité : 2021-08-05, Vol. 18, n° 31

Amendments

Decision 2023-PDG-0018, 2023-04-27
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