STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

# 2004 No. 496

# COMPANIES

## The Companies (1986 Order) (International Accounting Standards and Other Accounting Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

*Made - - - - 2nd December 2004*
*To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 7(3) of the Schedule to the Northern Ireland Act 2000*

*Coming into operation 31st December 2004*

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment(**1**), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 265 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(**2**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

## PART 1

## GENERAL

### Citation, commencement and interpretation

**1.**—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Companies (1986 Order) (International Accounting Standards and Other Accounting Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on 31st December 2004, and have effect as respects companies' financial years which begin on or after 1st January 2005.

(3) In these Regulations, "1986 Order" means the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

(**1**) Formerly the Department of Economic Development: *see* S.I.1999/283 (N.I. 1), Article 3(5)
(**2**) S.I. 1986/1032 (N.I. 6); Article 265 was inserted into the 1986 Order by Article 22 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 (S.I. 1990/593 (N.I. 5)) in place of an existing Article of that number

# PART 2

## ACCOUNTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

**Preparation of individual and group accounts in accordance with IAS Regulation**

**2.** For Articles 234 and 235 of the 1986 Order (duty to prepare individual and group accounts)(**3**) substitute –

"**Duty to prepare individual accounts**

**234.**—(1) The directors of every company shall prepare accounts for the company for each of its financial years.

Those accounts are referred to in this Part as the company's "individual accounts".

(2) A company's individual accounts may be prepared –

(a) in accordance with Article 234A ("Companies Order individual accounts"), or

(b) in accordance with international accounting standards (" IAS individual accounts").

This paragraph is subject to the following provisions of this Article and Article 235C.

(3) The individual accounts of a company that is a charity must be Companies Order individual accounts.

(4) After the first financial year in which the directors of a company prepare IAS individual accounts ("the first IAS year"), all subsequent individual accounts of the company must be prepared in accordance with international accounting standards unless there is a relevant change of circumstance.

(5) There is a relevant change of circumstance if, at any time during or after the first IAS year –

(a) the company becomes a subsidiary undertaking of another undertaking that does not prepare IAS individual accounts,

(b) the company ceases to be a company with securities admitted to trading on a regulated market, or

(c) a parent undertaking of the company ceases to be an undertaking with securities admitted to trading on a regulated market.

In this paragraph "regulated market" has the same meaning as it has in Council Directive 93/22/EEC on investment services in the securities field(**4**).

(6) If, having changed to preparing Companies Order individual accounts following a relevant change of circumstance, the directors again prepare IAS individual accounts for the company, paragraphs (4) and (5) apply again as if the first financial year for which such accounts are again prepared were the first IAS year.

**Companies Order individual accounts**

**234A.**—(1) Companies Order individual accounts must comprise –

(**3**) Article 234 was inserted into the 1986 Order by Article 6 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 in place of an existing Article of that number, and Article 235 by Article 7 of that Order

(**4**) O.J. No. L141 of 11.6.1993 page 27, as last amended by Directive 2000/64/EEC of the European Parliament and of the Council (O.J. No. L290 of 17.11.2000, page 27)

(a) a balance sheet as at the last day of the financial year, and

(b) a profit and loss account.

(2) The balance sheet must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year; and the profit and loss account must give a true and fair view of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year.

(3) Companies Order individual accounts must comply with the provisions of Schedule 4 as to the form and content of the balance sheet and profit and loss account and additional information to be provided by way of notes to the accounts.

(4) Where compliance with the provisions of that Schedule, and the other provisions of this Order as to the matters to be included in a company's individual accounts or in notes to those accounts, would not be sufficient to give a true and fair view, the necessary additional information must be given in the accounts or in a note to them.

(5) If in special circumstances compliance with any of those provisions is inconsistent with the requirement to give a true and fair view, the directors must depart from that provision to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view.

(6) Particulars of any such departure, the reasons for it and its effect must be given in a note to the accounts.

**IAS individual accounts**

**234B.** Where the directors of a company prepare IAS individual accounts, they must state in the notes to those accounts that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with international accounting standards.

**Duty to prepare group accounts**

**235.**—(1) If at the end of a financial year a company is a parent company the directors, as well as preparing individual accounts for the year, shall prepare consolidated accounts for the group for the year. Those accounts are referred to in this Part as the company's "group accounts".

(2) The group accounts of certain companies are required by Article 4 of the IAS Regulation to be prepared in accordance with international accounting standards (" IAS group accounts").

(3) The group accounts of other companies may be prepared –

(a) in accordance with Article 235A ("Companies Order group accounts"), or

(b) in accordance with international accounting standards (" IAS group accounts").

This paragraph is subject to the following provisions of this Article.

(4) The group accounts of a parent company that is a charity must be Companies Order group accounts.

(5) After the first financial year in which the directors of a parent company prepare IAS group accounts ("the first IAS year"), all subsequent group accounts of the company must be prepared in accordance with international accounting standards unless there is a relevant change of circumstance.

(6) There is a relevant change of circumstance if, at any time during or after the first IAS year –

(a) the company becomes a subsidiary undertaking of another undertaking that does not prepare IAS group accounts,

(b) the company ceases to be a company with securities admitted to trading on a regulated market, or

(c) a parent undertaking of the company ceases to be an undertaking with securities admitted to trading on a regulated market.

In this paragraph "regulated market" has the same meaning as it has in Council Directive 93/22/EEC on investment services in the securities field.

(7) If, having changed to preparing Companies Order group accounts following a relevant change of circumstance, the directors again prepare IAS group accounts for the company, paragraphs (5) and (6) apply again as if the first financial year for which such accounts are again prepared were the first IAS year.

(8) This Article is subject to the exemptions provided by Articles 236, 236A, 237(5) and 256.

**Companies Order group accounts**

**235A.**—(1) Companies Order group accounts must comprise –

(a) a consolidated balance sheet dealing with the state of affairs of the parent company and its subsidiary undertakings, and

(b) a consolidated profit and loss account dealing with the profit or loss of the parent company and its subsidiary undertakings.

(2) The accounts must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year, and the profit or loss for the financial year, of the undertakings included in the consolidation as a whole, so far as concerns members of the company.

(3) Companies Order group accounts must comply with the provisions of Schedule 4A as to the form and content of the consolidated balance sheet and consolidated profit and loss account and additional information to be provided by way of notes to the accounts.

(4) Where compliance with the provisions of that Schedule, and the other provisions of this Order as to the matters to be included in a company's group accounts or in notes to those accounts, would not be sufficient to give a true and fair view, the necessary additional information must be given in the accounts or in a note to them.

(5) If in special circumstances compliance with any of those provisions is inconsistent with the requirement to give a true and fair view, the directors must depart from that provision to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view.

(6) Particulars of any such departure, the reasons for it and its effect must be given in a note to the accounts.

**IAS group accounts**

**235B.** Where the directors of a parent company prepare IAS group accounts, they must state in the notes to those accounts that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with international accounting standards.

**Consistency of accounts**

**235C.**—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this Article, the directors of a parent company must secure that the individual accounts of –

(a) the parent company, and

(b) each of its subsidiary undertakings,

are all prepared using the same financial reporting framework, except to the extent that in their opinion there are good reasons for not doing so.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the directors do not prepare group accounts for the parent company.

(3) Paragraph (1) only applies to accounts of subsidiary undertakings that are required to be prepared under this Part.

(4) Paragraph (1) does not require accounts of undertakings that are charities to be prepared using the same financial reporting framework as accounts of undertakings which are not charities.

(5) Paragraph (1)(a) does not apply where the directors of a parent company prepare IAS group accounts and IAS individual accounts.".

**Consequential amendments**

**3.** Schedule 1 ( IAS accounts: consequential amendments to the 1986 Order) has effect.

# PART 3

## OTHER MODIFICATIONS OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCOUNTS

**Exemption for parent companies included in accounts of larger non-EEA group**

**4.** After Article 236 of the 1986 Order (exemption for parent companies included in accounts of larger groups) insert the following –

"**Exemption for parent companies included in non-EEA group accounts**

**236A.**—(1) A company is exempt from the requirement to prepare group accounts if it is itself a subsidiary undertaking and its parent undertaking is not established under the law of an EEA State, in the following cases –

(a) where the company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of that parent undertaking;

(b) where that parent undertaking holds more than 50 per cent of the shares in the company and notice requesting the preparation of group accounts has not been served on the company by shareholders holding in aggregate –

(i) more than half of the remaining shares in the company, or

(ii) 5 per cent of the total shares in the company.

Such notice must be served not later than six months after the end of the financial year before that to which it relates.

(2) Exemption is conditional upon compliance with all of the following conditions –

(a) that the company and all of its subsidiary undertakings are included in consolidated accounts for a larger group drawn up to the same date, or to an earlier date in the same financial year, by a parent undertaking;

(b) that those accounts and, where appropriate, the group's annual report, are drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Seventh Directive (83/349/EEC) (where applicable as modified by the provisions of the Bank Accounts Directive (86/635/EEC) or the Insurance Accounts Directive (91/674/EEC)), or in a manner equivalent to consolidated accounts and consolidated annual reports so drawn up;