

AS 4 – CONTINGENCIES AND EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Illustration 1

In X Co. Ltd., theft of cash of ₹ 5 lakhs by the cashier in January, 20X1 was detected only in May, 20X1. The accounts of the company were not yet approved by the Board of Directors of the company.

Decide whether the theft of cash has to be adjusted in the accounts of the company for the year ended 31.3.20X1.

Solution

As per AS 4

(Revised) 'Contingencies and Events occurring after the Balance Sheet Date', an event occurring after the balance sheet date may require adjustment to the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, expenses or incomes.

If a fraud of the accounting period is detected after the balance sheet date but before approval of the financial statements, it is necessary to recognise the loss amounting ₹ 5,00,000 and adjust the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March, 20X1.

Illustration 2 (MTP Nov '21, April '23) (RTP Nov 19)

An earthquake destroyed a major warehouse of ACO Ltd. on 20.5.20X2. The accounting year of the company ended on 31.3.20X2. The accounts were approved on 30.6.20X2. The loss from earthquake is estimated at ₹ 30 lakhs. State with reasons, whether the loss due to earthquake is an adjusting or non-adjusting event and how the fact of loss is to be disclosed by the company. **(5 Marks)**

Solution

AS 4 (Revised) "Contingencies and Events Occurring after the Balance Sheet Date", states that adjustments to assets and liabilities are not appropriate for events occurring after the balance sheet date, if such events do not relate to conditions existing at the balance sheet date. The destruction of warehouse due to earthquake did not exist on the balance sheet date i.e. 31.3.20X2. Therefore, loss occurred due to earthquake is not to be recognised in the financial year 20X1-20X2.

However, according to the standard, unusual changes affecting the existence or substratum of the enterprise after the balance sheet date may indicate a need to consider the use of fundamental accounting assumption of going concern in the preparation of the financial statements. As per the information given in the question, the earthquake has caused major destruction; therefore, fundamental accounting assumption of going concern would have to be evaluated.

Considering that the going concern assumption is still valid, the fact of earthquake together with an estimated loss of ₹ 30 lakhs should be disclosed in the report of the approving authority for financial year 20X1-X2 to enable users of financial statements to make proper evaluations and decisions.

Illustration 3

A company has filed a legal suit against the debtor from whom ₹ 15 lakh is recoverable as on 31.3.20X1. The chances of recovery by way of legal suit are not good as per legal opinion given by the counsel in April, 20X1. Can the company provide for full amount of ₹ 15 lakhs as provision for doubtful debts? Discuss.

Solution

As per AS 4 (Revised) "Contingencies and Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date", assets and liabilities should be adjusted for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional evidence to assist the estimation of amounts relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date. In the given case, company should make the provision for doubtful debts, as legal suit has been filed on 31st March, 20X1 and the chances of recovery from the suit are not good. Though, the actual result of legal suit will be known in future yet situation of non-recovery from the debtors exists before finalisation of financial

statements. Therefore, provision for doubtful debts should be made for the year ended on 31st March, 20X1.

Illustration 4

In preparing the financial statements of R Ltd. for the year ended 31st March, 20X1, you come across the following information. State with reasons, how you would deal with this in the financial statements:

The company invested 100 lakhs in April, 20X1 before approval of Financial Statements by the Board of directors in the acquisition of another company doing similar business, the negotiations for which had started during the year.

Solution

AS 4 (Revised) defines "Events Occurring after the Balance Sheet Date" as those significant events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are approved by the Approving Authority in the case of a company. Accordingly, the acquisition of another company is an event occurring after the balance sheet date. However, no adjustment to assets and liabilities is required as the event does not affect the determination and the condition of the amounts stated in the financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 20X1. The disclosure should be made in the report of the approving authority of those events occurring after the balance sheet date that represent material changes and commitments affecting the financial position of the enterprise, the investment of ₹ 100 lakhs in April, 20X1

for the acquisition of another company should be disclosed in the report of the Approving Authority to enable users of financial statements to make proper evaluations and decisions.

Illustration 5

A Limited Company closed its accounting year on 30.6.20X1 and the accounts for that period were considered and approved by the board of directors on 20th August, 20X1. The company was engaged in laying pipeline for an oil company deep beneath the earth. While doing the boring work on 1.9.20X1 it had met a rocky surface for which it was estimated that there would be an extra cost to the tune of ₹ 80 lakhs. You are required to state with reasons, how the event would be dealt with in the financial statements for the year ended 30.6.20X1.

Solution

AS 4 (Revised) on Contingencies and Events Occurring after the Balance Sheet Date defines 'events occurring after the balance sheet date' as 'significant events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which financial statements are approved by the Board of Directors in the case of a company'. The given case is discussed in the light of the above-mentioned definition and requirements given in AS 4 (Revised). In this case the incidence, which was expected to push up cost, became evident after the date of approval of the accounts. So it is not an 'event occurring after the balance sheet date'.

Illustration 6 (MTP March 19, April'19) (RTP Nov 18)

While preparing its final accounts for the year ended 31st March, 20X1 a company made a provision for bad debts @ 5% of its total trade receivables. In the last week of February, 20X1 a trade receivable for ₹ 2 lakhs had suffered heavy loss due to an earthquake; the loss was not covered by any insurance policy. In April, 20X1 the trade receivable became a bankrupt. Can the company provide for the full loss arising out of insolvency of the trade receivable in the final accounts for the year ended 31st March, 20X1? **(5 Marks)**

Solution

As per Accounting Standard 4, Assets and Liabilities should be adjusted for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional evidence to assist estimation of amounts relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date. So full provision for bad debt amounting to ₹ 2 lakhs should be made to cover the loss arising due to the insolvency in the Final Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 20X1. It is because earthquake took place before the balance sheet date.

Had the earthquake taken place after 31st March, 20X1, then this would have been treated as non-adjusting event and only disclosure required as per AS 4 (Revised), would have been sufficient.

Illustration 7

Y Ltd. has book debts and has a doubt over recoverability of some of the book debts. The amount that cannot be recovered is not quantifiable. Thus, Y Ltd. is of the opinion that provision for doubtful debts should not be created. Y Ltd. Creates provision for certain other expenses on estimated basis.

Whether contention of Y Ltd. is correct?

Solution

As per AS 4, "Contingencies and Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date" if it is likely that a contingency will result in a loss to an entity then it should create provision for that contingency on the estimated basis.

Based on the above, the contention that provision for doubtful debt is not be created merely because the amount is not quantifiable is not correct. Hence Y Ltd. should make provision in the books on the basis of estimation.

Illustration 8

A Ltd. has sold its building for ₹ 50 lakhs to B Ltd. and has also given the possession to B Ltd. The book value of the building is ₹ 30 lakhs. As on 31st March, 20X1, the documentation and legal formalities are pending. The company has not recorded the sale and has shown the amount received as advance. Do you agree with this treatment?

Solution:

The economic reality and substance of the transaction is that the rights and beneficial interest in the property has been transferred although legal title has not been transferred. A Ltd. should record the sale and recognise the gain of ₹ 20 lakhs in its profit and loss account. The building should be derecognized in the financial statements.

Illustration 9

During the year 20X1-20X2, Raj Ltd. was sued by a competitor for ₹ 15 lakhs for infringement of a trademark. Based on the advice of the company's legal counsel, Raj Ltd. provided for a sum of ₹ 10 lakhs in its financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 20X2. On 18th May, 20X2, the Court decided in favour of the party alleging infringement of the trademark and ordered Raj Ltd. to pay the aggrieved party a sum of ₹ 14 lakhs. The financial statements were prepared by the company's management on 30th April, 20X2, and approved by the board on 30th May, 20X2.

Solution:

As per AS 4 (Revised), adjustments to assets and liabilities are required for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional information materially affecting the determination of the amounts relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date.

In the given case, since Raj Ltd. was sued by a competitor for infringement of a trademark during the year 20X1-X2 for which the provision was also made by it, the decision of the Court on 18th May, 20X2, for payment of the penalty will constitute as an adjusting event because it is an event occurred before approval of the financial statements. Therefore, Raj Ltd. should adjust the provision upward by ₹ 4 lakhs to reflect the award decreed by the Court to be paid by them to its competitor.

Had the judgment of the Court been delivered on 1st June, 20X2, it would be considered as an event occurring after the approval of the financial statements which is not covered by AS 4 (Revised). In that case, no adjustment in the financial statements of 20X1-X2 would have been required.

MTP / RTP / Past Exam**Question 1 (MTP May'20, Mar'22) (RTP May'20, May'22, May'24) (Past Exam May'19 July 21)**

The financial statements of Alpha Ltd. for the year 2019-2020 were approved by the Board of Directors on 15th July, 2020. The following information was provided:

- (i) A suit against the company's advertisement was filed by a party on 20 th April, 2020 claiming damages of Rs. 25 lakhs.
- (ii) The terms and conditions for acquisition of business of another company had been decided by March, 2020. But the financial resources were arranged in April, 2020 and amount invested was Rs. 50 lakhs.
- (iii) Theft of cash of Rs. 5 lakhs by the cashier on 31st March, 2020, was detected on 16th July, 2020.
- (iv) The company started a negotiation with a party to sell an immovable property for Rs. 40 lakhs in March, 2020. The book value of the property is Rs. 30 lakh on 31st March, 2020. However, the deed was registered on 15th April, 2020.

A major fire had damaged the assets in a factory on 5th April, 2020. However, the assets were fully insured. With reference to AS 4, state whether the above mentioned events will be treated as contingencies, adjusting events or non-adjusting events occurring after the balance sheet date. **(5 Marks)**

Solution:

(i) Non-adjusting event: Suit filed against the company is a contingent liability but it was not existing as on date of balance sheet date as the suit was filed on 20 th April after the balance sheet date. As per AS 4, 'Contingencies' is restricted to conditions or situations at the balance sheet date, the financial effect of which is to be determined by future events which may or may not occur. Hence, it will have no effect on financial statement and will be a non-adjusting event.

(ii) Adjusting event: In the given case, terms and conditions for acquisition of business were finalized before the balance sheet date and carried out before the closure of the books of accounts but transaction for payment of financial resources was effected in April, 2020. Hence, necessary adjustment to assets and liabilities for acquisition of business is necessary in the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2020.

(iii) Non-adjusting event: Only those events which occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are approved, may indicate the need for adjustments to assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date or may require disclosure. In the given case, as the theft of cash was detected on 16th July, 2020 ie after approval of financial statements, no adjustment is required.

(iv) Non-adjusting event: Adjustments to assets and liabilities are not appropriate for events occurring after the balance sheet date, if such events do not relate to conditions existing at the balance sheet date. In the given case, sale of immovable property was under proposal stage (negotiations only started) on the balance sheet date, and was not finalized. Therefore, adjustment to assets for sale of immovable property is not necessary in the financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 2020. Disclosure may be given in Report of approving Authority.

(v) Non-adjusting event: Adjustments to assets and liabilities are not appropriate for events occurring after the balance sheet date, if such events do not relate to conditions existing at the balance sheet date.

The condition of fire occurrence was not existing on the balance sheet date. Only the disclosure regarding fire and loss, being completely insured may be given in the report of approving authority.

Question 2 (MTP Oct '21, Oct '23) (RTP May'22)

Tee Ltd. closes its books of accounts every year on 31st March. The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 are to be approved by the approving authority on 30 June 2020. During the first quarter of 2020-2021, the following events / transactions has taken place. The accountant of the company seeks your guidance for the following:

- (i) Tee Ltd. has an inventory of 50 stitching machines costing at Rs. 5,500 per machine as on 31 March 2020. On 31 March 2020 the company is expecting a heavy decline in the demand in next year. The inventories are valued at cost or net realizable value, whichever is lower. During the month of April 2020, due to fall in demand, the prices have gone down drastically. The company has sold 5 machines during this month at a price of Rs. 4,000 per machine.
- (ii) A fire has broken out in the company's go down on 15 April 2020. The company has estimated a loss of Rs. 25 lakhs of which 75% is recoverable from the Insurance company.
- (iii) The company has entered into a sale agreement on 30 March 2020 to sell a property for a consideration of Rs. 7,50,000 which is being carried in the books at Rs. 5,50,000 at the year end. The transfer of risk and reward and sale is complete in the month of May 2020 when conveyance and possession get completed.
- (iv) The company has received, during the year 2018-2019, a government grant of Rs. 15 lakhs for purchase of a machine. The company has received a notice for refund of the said grant on 15 June, 2020 due to violation of some of the conditions of grant during the year 2019-2020. You are required to state with reasons, how the above transactions will be dealt with in the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2020. **(5 Marks)**

Solution:

Events occurring after the balance sheet date are those significant events, both favourable and unfavorable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are approved by the Board of Directors in the case of a company, and by the corresponding approving authority in the case of any other entity. Assets and liabilities should be adjusted for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional evidence to assist the estimation of amounts relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date or that indicate that the fundamental accounting assumption of going concern is not appropriate. In the given case, financial statements are approved by the approving authority on 30 June 2020. On the basis of above principles, following will be the accounting treatment in the financial statements for the year ended at 31 March 2020:

- (i) Since on 31 March 2020, Tee Ltd. was expecting a heavy decline in the demand of the stitching machine. Therefore, decline in the value during April, 2020 will be considered as an adjusting event.
- (ii) Hence, Tee Ltd. needs to adjust the amounts recognized in its financial statements w.r.t. net realizable value at the end of the reporting period. Accordingly, inventory should be written down to Rs. 4,000 per machine. Total value of inventory in the books will be 50 machines x Rs. 4,000 = Rs. 2,00,000.
- (iii) A fire took place after the balance sheet date i.e. during 2020 -2021 financial year. Hence, corresponding financials of 2019-2020 financial year should not be adjusted for loss occurred due to fire. However, in this circumstance, the going concern assumption will be evaluated. In case the going concern assumption is considered to be appropriate even after the occurrence of fire, no disclosure of the same is required in the financial statements. Otherwise, disclosure be given.
- (iv) Since the transfer of risk and reward and sale was complete in the month of May, 2020 when conveyance and possession got complete, no revenue should be recognized with respect to it in the financial statements of 2019-2020. However, a disclosure for the same should be given by the entity.
- (v) Since the notice has been received after 31 March but before 30 June 2020 (approval date), the said grant shall be adjusted in the financial statements for financial year 2019 -2020 because the violation of the conditions took place in the financial year 2019 -2020 and the company must be aware of it.

Question 3 (MTP Aug'18, Mar'18) (RTP May'19)

The Board of Directors of New Graphics Ltd. in its Board Meeting held on 18th April, 2017, considered and approved the Audited Financial results along with Auditors Report for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2017 and recommended a dividend of Rs. 2 per equity share (on 2 crore fully paid up equity shares of Rs. 10 each) for the year ended 31st March, 2017 and if approved by the members at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the company on 18th June, 2017, the same will be paid to all the eligible shareholders.

Discuss on the accounting treatment and presentation of the said proposed dividend in the annual accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March, 2017 as per the applicable Accounting Standard and other Statutory Requirements. (5 Marks)

Solution:

As per the amendment in AS 4 "Contingencies and Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date" vide Companies (Accounting Standards) Amendments Rules, 2016 dated 30th March, 2016, the events which take place after the balance sheet date, are sometimes reflected in the financial statements because of statutory requirements or because of their special nature. However, dividends declared after the balance sheet date but before approval of financial statements are not recognized as a liability at the balance sheet date because no statutory obligation exists at that time.

Hence such dividends are disclosed in the notes to financial statements. No, provision for proposed dividends is not required to be made. Such proposed dividends are to be disclosed in the notes to financial statements. Accordingly, the dividend of Rs. 4 crores recommended by New Graphics Ltd. in its Board meeting on 18th April, 2017 shall not be accounted for in the books for the year 2016- 17 irrespective of the fact that it pertains to the year 2016-17 and will be paid after approval in the Annual General Meeting of the members / shareholders.

Question 4 (MTP Sep'22)

State with reasons, how the following events would be dealt with in the financial statements of Hari Ltd. for the year ended 31st March, 2022 (accounts were approved on 25th July, 2022):

- 1) Negotiations with another company for acquisition of its business was started on 21st January, 2022. Hari Ltd. invested ₹ 40 lakh on 22nd April, 2022.
- 2) The company made a provision for bad debts @ 4% of its total debtors (as per trend followed from the previous years). In the second week of March 2022, a debtor for ₹ 2,50,000 had suffered heavy loss due to an earthquake; the loss was not covered by any insurance policy. In May, 2022 the debtor became bankrupt.
- 3) During the year 2021-22, Hari Ltd. was sued by a competitor for ₹ 13 lakhs for infringement of a trademark. Based on the advice of the company's legal counsel, Hari Ltd. provided for a sum of ₹ 8 lakhs in its financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 2022. On 26th May, 2022, the Court decided in favour of the party alleging infringement of the trademark and ordered Hari Ltd. to pay the aggrieved party a sum of ₹ 12 lakhs.
- 4) Cashier of Hari Ltd. embezzled cash amounting to ₹ 3,00,000 during March, 2022. However the same comes to the notice of Company management during August, 2022.
- 5) Cheques dated 31st March, 2022 collected in the month of April, 2022. All cheques are presented to the bank in the month of April, 2022 and are also realized in the same month in the normal course after deposit in the bank (5 Marks)

Solution:

- I. As per AS 4 'Contingencies and Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date', disclosure should be made in the report of the approving authority of those events occurring after the balance sheet date that represent material changes and commitments affecting the financial position of the enterprise, the investment of ₹ 40 lakhs in April, 2022 in the acquisition of another company should be disclosed in the report of the Board of Directors to enable users of financial statements to make proper evaluations and decisions.
- II. As per AS 4, adjustment to assets and liabilities are required for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional information materially affecting the determination of the amounts relating to conditions existing at the Balance Sheet date. A debtor for ₹ 2,50,000 suffered heavy loss due to earthquake in the second week of March, 2022 which was not covered by insurance. This information with its implications was already known to the company. The fact that he became bankrupt in May, 2022 (after the balance sheet date) is only an additional information related to the

existing condition on the balance sheet date. Accordingly, full provision for bad debts amounting ₹ 2,50,000 should be made, to cover the loss arising due to the insolvency of a debtor, in the final accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

- III. As per AS 4, adjustments to assets and liabilities are required for events occurring after the balance sheet date that provide additional information materially affecting the determination of the amounts relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date. In the given case, since Hari Ltd. was sued by a competitor for infringement of a trademark during the year 2021- 22 for which the provision was also made by it, the decision of the Court on 26 th May, 2022, for payment of the penalty will constitute as an adjusting event because it is an event occurred before approval of the financial statements. Therefore, Hari Ltd. should adjust the provision upward by ₹ 4 lakhs to reflect the award decreed by the Court to be paid by them to its competitor.
- IV. As the embezzlement of cash comes to the notice of company management only after approval of financial statements by board of directors of the company, then the treatment will be done as per the provisions of AS 5 “Net Profit or Loss for the Period, Prior Period Items and Changes in Accounting Policies” and the same will not be adjusted in the financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 2022. This being an extra-ordinary item should be disclosed in the statement of profit and loss as a part of loss for the year ending March, 2023, in a manner, that its impact on current profit or loss can be perceived.
- V. Collection of cheques after balance sheet date is not an adjusting event even if the cheques bear the date of 31st March. Recognition of cheques in hand is therefore not consistent with requirements of AS 4. Moreover, the collection of cheques after balance sheet date does not represent any material change or commitments affecting financial position of the enterprise and no disclosure of such collections in the Directors’ Report is necessary.

Question 5 (RTP Nov 21, Past Exam Nov’22)

XYZ Ltd. operates its business into various segments. Its financial year ended on 31st March, 2020 and the financial statements were approved by their approving authority on 15th June, 2020. The following material events took place:

- a) A major property was sold (it was included in the balance sheet at Rs. 25,00,000) for which contracts had been exchanged on 15th March, 2020. The sale was completed on 15th May, 2020 at a price of Rs. 26,50,000.
- b) On 2nd April, 2020, a fire completely destroyed a manufacturing plant of the entity. It was expected that the loss of Rs. 10 million would be fully covered by the insurance company.
- c) A claim for damage amounting to Rs. 8 million for breach of patent had been received by the entity prior to the year-end. It is the director's opinion, backed by legal advice that the claim will ultimately prove to be baseless. But it is still estimated that it would involve a considerable expenditure on legal fees.

You are required to state with reasons, how each of the above items should be dealt with in the financial statements of XYZ Ltd. for the year ended 31st March, 2020. (5 Marks)

Solution:

Treatment as per AS 4 ‘Contingencies and Events Occurring After the Balance Sheet Date’

- a) The sale of property should be treated as an adjusting event since contracts had been exchanged prior to the year-end. The effect of the sale should be reflected in the financial statements ended on 31.3.2020 and the profit on sale of property Rs. 1,50,000 would be considered.
- b) The event is a non-adjusting event since it occurred after the year-end and does not relate to the conditions existing at the year-end. However, it is necessary to consider the validity of the going concern assumption having regard to the extent of insurance cover. Also, since it is said that the loss would be fully recovered by the insurance company, the fact should be disclosed by way of a note to the financial statements.

MCQs

1. Cash amounting to ₹ 4 lakhs, stolen by the cashier in the month of March 20X1, was detected in April, 20X1. The financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 20X1 were approved by the Board of Directors on 15th May, 20X1. As per Accounting Standards, this is _____ for the financial statements year ended on 31st March, 20X1.

- (a) An Adjusting event.
- (b) Non-adjusting event.
- (c) Contingency.
- (d) Provision

2. As per Accounting Standards, events occurring after the balance sheet date are

- (a) Only favourable events that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the financial statements are approved by the Board of directors.
- (b) Only unfavourable events that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the financial statements are approved by the Board of directors.
- (c) Those significant events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are approved by the Board of directors.
- (d) Those significant events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the balance sheet date and the date on which the financial statements are not approved by the Board of directors.

3. AS 4 does not apply to

- (a) Obligation under retirement benefit plans.
- (b) Commitments arising from long term lease contracts.
- (d) liabilities of life assurance and general insurance enterprises arising from policies issued
- (c) Both (a) & (b).

4. A Ltd. sold its building for ₹ 50 lakhs to B Ltd. and has also given the possession to B Ltd. The book value of the building is ₹ 30 lakhs. As on 31st March, 20X1, the documentation and legal formalities are pending. For the financial year ended 31st March, 20X1

- (a) The company should record the sale.
- (b) The company should recognise the profit of ₹ 20 lakhs in its profit and loss account.
- (c) Both (a) and (b).
- (d) The company should disclose the profit of ₹ 20 lakhs in notes to accounts.

Answers/Hints:**MCQ**

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c)